

City of Charlottesville Fire Department

Office of the Fire Marshal
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Dear Community Members,

The City of Charlottesville Fire Department has been given a rare tool in combating the crime of arson; an ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) accelerant detection canine named Quaker. He is now fully operational for all of Central Virginia (and beyond). Quaker is able to fulfill a vital role in ensuring public safety during criminal investigations. He is a remarkable dog and is one of 68 canines in the nation that is trained and certified by ATF capable of detecting liquid accelerants in fire scenes. His capability to pinpoint the area in which the arsonist used ignitable liquids to start the fire will guide fire investigators where to take debris samples to send to the crime lab. The crime of arson affects everyone in the community, whether you are the victim of arson directly or the consumers in the area that have to pay for the rising costs of insurance rates to cover losses, or pay the increased prices as a result of lost revenue while rebuilding and restocking inventory.

Quaker, his training, and the training of the handler (City Fire Marshal, W.A. Hogsten) were fully funded by ATF. The care and continued training of Quaker is the responsibility of the greater Charlottesville community. The City of Charlottesville has established an account solely for Quaker's care to receive contributions from individuals, businesses and organizations. These funds will be used for supplies, food, treats, equipment such as a flammable liquids cabinet, training aids and transportation needs.

Thank you for your support, your contribution is an investment in your community. If you have any questions about this program or donations other than monetary, please contact Office of the Fire Marshal.

Checks can be made out to "*City of Charlottesville*" with a memo "*Quaker Fund*"

