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# News Release

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## ***DPD Officers Close to Raising \$10,000 for Autism Awareness***

**DURHAM, N.C. – Some Durham Police officers are a little hairier than normal. Despite non-profits taking a hit due to COVID-19 DPD officers continue to raise money for a good cause and get a chance to grow out their beards.**

With 23 days remaining in its employee-driven charitable campaign, the Durham Police Department (DPD) is close to raising \$10,000 as part of the agency's National Autism Awareness Month observance. So far DPD employees have contributed 730% over their fundraising goal to support the Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC). This is a much needed financial boost for the non-profit in the throes of unprecedented donations slowdown due COVID-19. DPD contributions total \$8,372 so far.

DPD's community outreach project is a timely internal morale booster as employees render essential public safety services during the coronavirus outbreak. A campaign incentive is beard amnesty for officers who contribute at a certain level. For a specified time participating officers are allowed to grow a neatly trimmed beard, an action that is ordinarily not permitted by dress code guidelines in the department's General Orders.

All employees are supporting the cause. A number of DPD employees have loved ones who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), an incurable developmental disability.

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