

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Contact:**

Diana L. Klink  
757.514.4104  
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley  
757.514.4103  
757.871.3039

### **PROTECTING OUR K-9 HEROES**

SUFFOLK, VA (January 28, 2015) The Suffolk Police Department's K-9 Kilo has received notification that it will be awarded a ballistic vest thanks to a non-profit organization, Vested Interest in K-9s, Inc., and an anonymous donor who provided \$950.00 for the vest. The vest will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K-9s Inc."

"These K-9 dogs become members of the Officer's family and the Department's family. It is important to give them the added protection of a vest. While it won't be worn all the time, it will be worn in high risk situations," according to Chief Thomas Bennett.

Vested Interest in K-9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, Massachusetts whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. Each vest costs \$950.00 and has a 5 year warranty. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially life-saving body armor for their four legged K-9 Officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships, Vested Interest in K-9s, Inc. provided over 1200 law enforcement dogs in 40 states with protective vests since 2009 at a cost of \$1.1 million.

The organization orders the U.S. made vests exclusively from distributor Regency Police Supply in Hyannis, MA, who also does the custom embroidery on the body armor. Vests are manufactured by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

New K-9 graduates as well as K-9's with expired vests are eligible to participate. The program is open to law enforcement dogs who are U.S. employed, certified and at least 19 months of age.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Tax deductible donations accepted via mail to: Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718, or via the website: [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org).

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