

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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K9 KILO RECEIVES BALLISTIC VEST

SUFFOLK, VA (April 9, 2015) The Suffolk Police Department's K9, "Kilo", has received a ballistic vest thanks to a nonprofit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, 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 K9s, Inc."

According to Chief Thomas Bennett, "The Department is pleased to be able to offer the same level of protection to our K9s as we do our Officers. The K9s become part of the handler's family as well as a valuable member of the Department."

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA 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 nonprofit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four legged K9 Officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 1317 law enforcement dogs in 49 states with protective vests since 2009 at a cost of \$1.2 million dollars.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. announces their calendar on sale for \$15.00 online at www.vik9s.org. Proceeds from the sales will provide bullet and stab protective vests. All goods and services for the calendar were donated by generous sponsors, photographers and participating law enforcement agencies to benefit police dogs actively working without the potentially lifesaving equipment.

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 manufacturer by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

New K9 graduates as well as K9'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.

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