



CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
952-895-4600 • Fax 952-895-4640
www.burnsville.org/police

Eric Gieseke
Chief of Police



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2014

Contact: Sgt. Jeff Witte
Burnsville Police Department
O# 952-895-4631
C# 952-292-7692
jeff.witte@ci.burnsville.mn.us

BURNSVILLE K-9 ECHO ONE OF MULTIPLE MINNESOTA K-9s TO RECEIVE DONATION OF BALLISTIC VESTS

In April, K-9 Echo with the Burnsville Police Department was the recipient of a bullet and stab protective vest donated by "Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.," a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization supporting police K-9s.

Echo was one of multiple Minnesota K-9s who received ballistic vests, donated after more than \$10,000 was raised for the cause during a "Hair by Jim" fundraising event at the Euphoria Salon in St. Paul, Minn. Event proceeds provided vests for 11 Minnesota K-9s serving the counties of Morrison, Stearns, Hennepin and Goodhue, as well as police departments in Burnsville, Hastings, Worthington, Edina, Princeton, Plymouth and New Hope.

"Vested Interest in K9s, Inc." is a 501c (3) volunteer charity established in 2009, with a mission to provide bullet and stab protective vests for law enforcement dogs throughout the United States. Each vest costs \$950 and has a five-year warranty. Through private and corporate sponsorships, the organization has provided nearly 1,050 law enforcement dogs in 39 states with protective vests.

All new K-9 graduates, as well as K-9s with expired vests, are eligible to apply for the donation. The program is open to U.S.-employed and certified K-9s that are at least 19 months old.

K-9 Echo is the partner of Officer Ben Archambault. Officer Brian Hasselman and his K-9 partner, Rex, also began patrolling Burnsville in 2014.

For more information on "Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.," visit www.vik9s.org or call 508-824-6978.

(Photo Below)



(High Resolution Photo Available Upon Request)

Cutline: *K-9 Echo poses in his new ballistic vest, donated by "Vested Interest in K9s, Inc."*

#