



**CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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BURNSVILLE K-9 REX TO RECEIVE DONATION OF BALLISTIC VEST

In February, the Burnsville Police Department was notified that K-9 Officer Rex would receive a bullet and stab protective vest donated by "Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.," a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization supporting police K-9s. This is the second year in a row that a Burnsville K-9 has received the donation.

K-9 Rex's vest was sponsored by an individual donor, Roxanne Goeltz, who donated \$975 to cover the cost of the lifesaving equipment. The vest will be embroidered with "A Piece of My Heart is with Sophie, Hero, Emmet and Kody," – signifying Ms. Goeltz's appreciation of K-9 officers and their handlers and to honor K-9 officers who have passed away.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) volunteer charity established in 2009, with a mission to provide bullet/stab protective vests and other assistance for law enforcement dogs throughout the U.S. Each vest costs \$950 and has a five-year warranty. Through private and corporate sponsorships, the organization has provided more than 1,250 law enforcement dogs in 40 states with protective vests – at a cost of more than \$1.1 million.

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 Rex, who began patrol in 2014, is the partner of Officer Brian Hasselman. Officer Ben Archambault and his K-9 partner, Echo, also began patrolling Burnsville in 2014, and received a donated vest last year.

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

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., orders the American-made vests exclusively from distributor Regency Police Supply in Hyannis, Mass. The company also does the custom embroidery on the body armor. Vests are manufactured by Armor Express in Central Lake, Mich.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., is also selling 7-inch plush stuffed reproductions of German Shepherd K-9 "Cesar," a company ambassador for \$15. Orders can be made online at www.vik9s.org, and proceeds will provide bullet and stab protective vests, for police dogs actively working without the potentially lifesaving equipment.

(Photo Below)



(High Resolution Photo Available Upon Request)

Cutline: *K-9 Rex will receive a new ballistic vest, donated by "Vested Interest in K9s, Inc."*

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