



# Dalton Police Department

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Jeffrey E. Coe  
Chief of Police

## Press Release



The Dalton Police Department's K9 Max is being awarded a bullet/stab resistant vest thanks to a nonprofit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. The charity hosted a motorcycle ride August 25, 2013, "Hog Wild for K9s", which raised over \$15,000.00 to be awarded to (16) Massachusetts K9's.

In September 2013, Officer Matthew Mozzi was chosen to be the first the K9 Handler for the Dalton Police Department. On February 20, 2014,

Mozzi traveled to Pennsylvania to bring back "Max", (short for Maximus meaning the greatest), an 18 month old, 85lb all black German Sheppard from the City of Putten in the Netherlands (Holland). Officer Mozzi and Max have completed the 8 week Patrol School held by the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department and are fully certified. They are waiting to attend a Drug Detection Training and Certification class in the fall. Officer Mozzi and K9 Max have already participated in community demonstrations and events.

Chief Jeffrey Coe states, " Matt and Max are a valuable team dedicated to the protection of our community. Receiving this vest from Vested Interest in K9's will ensure the protection of our team. Thank you. "

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 930 law enforcement dogs in 39 states with protective vests since 2009.

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.

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 US employed, certified and at least 19 months of age.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. was named as a charity partner in March of 2014 in a nationwide Groupon Campaign which raised over \$335,000 in 19 days. The nonprofit will be providing over 350 law enforcement dogs nationwide with the protective body armor in memory of K9 Rocco of the Pittsburgh Police Department who sacrificed his life in the line of duty in January of 2014. All vests will be embroidered with the sentiment, "In Memory of K9 Rocco, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police".

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 EastTaunton, MA 02718 or via the website: [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org).