



Dalton Police Department

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Jeffrey E. Coe
Chief of Police

Press Release



The Dalton Police Department's K9 Max has received 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.

Officer Matthew Mozzi and Max have spent the last several months training in weekly seminars and are currently attending a Drug Detection Training for six weeks. Mozzi and Max have already completed and became certified Tracking of missing and/or wanted persons. Training is a continual and constant part of Max's every day shift and has also had "fun" tracking his partners during their shifts.

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 has 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 East Taunton, MA 02718 or via the website: www.vik9s.org.