



**CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**BURNSVILLE K-9 ECHO TO RETIRE THIS FALL,  
FUNDRAISER UNDERWAY FOR NEW POLICE K-9**

On Feb. 20, 2010, Burnsville Police Officer Ben Archambault was first introduced to his new partner – a one-year old German shepherd all the way from the Republic of Slovakia.

With input from a generous Burnsville resident in the Echo Hills neighborhood (who had donated a significant amount of money to the Burnsville K-9 program) Archambault named his rookie partner “Echo” in honor of the neighborhood and community.

As Archambault recalls, Echo was truly a rookie in every sense of the word.

“He had no training at all – he didn’t even know how to sit!” said Archambault thinking about his first days with his new partner. Twelve weeks and nearly 500 hours of training later (which included obedience, tracking, searches and criminal apprehension) Archambault and Echo started what would turn out to be a six year stint on patrol.

Now, after dealing with lingering spine issues since January – Echo (with help from Archambault) has announced his upcoming retirement in fall 2016. Since his back issues began, Echo has been on “light duty,” serving exclusively in narcotics detection.

“In January, I got ready for work and went out to the squad car with Echo,” said Archambault. “I opened the back door and he couldn’t jump into the back seat. I immediately knew there was something wrong. His favorite thing in the world was jumping into the squad and going to work.”

Archambault says that light duty has helped Echo recover – and he is once again pain free, active and able to jump in and out of the squad. However, because of the intense training and deployments that are necessary of a police K-9 on patrol, it was decided that Echo would be hanging up his badge later this year.

*(more)*

“I have been so fortunate to serve with Echo as a K-9 team for the Burnsville Police Department. It has been, by far, the best job I have ever had,” said Archambault, who will remain Echo’s caretaker even in retirement. “Echo has an incredible gift to ‘turn it on’ when he is working and ‘turn it off’ when we are at home, so I have no doubt that he will transition well into retirement. My family and I couldn’t ask for a better family dog.”

**Fundraiser Underway for New Police K-9**

With Echo preparing for retirement, the Burnsville Police Department has begun raising funds for the City’s next police K-9 (who will join the department’s other K-9 team of Rex and his handler Brian Hasselman).

Burnsville began its K-9 program in 1982. In the past 34 years, 13 four-legged officers have served the department. Since that time, four K-9s (including both Echo and Rex) have been funded almost exclusively through public donations. The department is again seeking the public’s help to fund the approximately \$20,000 needed to secure a new police K-9 – which includes training and equipment.

**Those wishing to help can do so online at [www.burnsville.org/k9](http://www.burnsville.org/k9) (Click the “Donate Now” button).**

Donations are easy to make, secure, and 100 percent will go toward funding Burnsville’s newest K-9 officer. Any amount is appreciated!

**Burnsville K-9 Program**

Since 1982, highly trained K-9 teams have served on the Burnsville Police Department searching buildings, looking for lost children, tracking down criminals and searching for narcotics.

These highly valued members of the force are trained to apprehend on command only – and in protection of their handler. They provide one of the finest non-lethal aids in the prevention and detection of crime.

K-9 teams are typically assigned to the evening and night shifts, but are available for callback 24-hours-a-day as needed. In addition to their regular shift work, K-9 teams also make public appearances and conduct demonstrations to school and community groups.

**Burnsville K-9 Officers and Handlers**

K-9	Years of Service	Handler	K-9	Years of Service	Handler
<b>Starsky</b>	1982-1988	Officer Hutchinson	<b>Louie</b>	1997-2005	Officer Jackson
<b>Cassidy</b>	1983-1990	Officer Hoppert	<b>Stryker</b>	2005-2010	Officer Anselment
<b>Colonel</b>	1988-1992	Officer Sander	<b>Dagger</b>	2004-2011	Officer Long
<b>Hunter</b>	1991-1992	Officer Hawkins	<b>Razor</b>	2011-2014	Officer Hasselman
<b>Mack</b>	1992-1996	Officer Sander	<b>Echo</b>	2010-Present	Officer Archambault
<b>Buck</b>	1993-1997	Officer Flaten	<b>Rex</b>	2014-Present	Officer Hasselman
<b>Baron</b>	1997-2004	Officer Long			

*(Photo Below)*



**Cutline:** *Burnsville Police K-9 Echo with his handler, Officer Ben Archambault.*

*For more information on Echo, Rex and the Burnsville K-9 Unit, visit [www.burnsville.org/K9](http://www.burnsville.org/K9).*