



**CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**BURNSVILLE POLICE EXTEND SINCERE THANKS TO COMMUNITY
FOR GENEROUS K-9 DONATIONS**

Thanks to an outpouring of support from community members, the Burnsville Police Department has already surpassed its \$20,000 fundraising goal for a new K-9 officer. In just three weeks, the department has received more than \$32,000 in donations!

“In just a few short weeks, we received dozens of donations ranging from \$5 to several thousand,” said Burnsville Police Captain Jef Behnken. “We are so grateful to our Burnsville community for their generous support of our department and K-9 program.”

All donations received are dedicated solely to the Burnsville Police K-9 program to purchase a new K-9, training, equipment, medical bills and other ongoing K-9 costs. While the goal has been met, K-9 donations are always accepted, and will be used to offset future costs in the program.

Next Burnsville K-9

In July, the Burnsville Police Department announced that K-9 Echo (who served with his partner Officer Ben Archambault since 2010) would be retiring this fall.

Officer Lauren Smith will be assigned as a handler of the next Burnsville K-9, expected to be purchased in the first quarter of 2017. After weeks of training, Officer Smith and her new partner hope to hit the streets summer 2017. They will join the department’s other K-9 team of Rex and his handler Officer Brian Hasselman.

History of K-9 Program

Burnsville began its K-9 program in 1982. In the past 34 years, 13 four-legged officers have served the department. Four of those K-9s (including both Echo and Rex) were funded almost exclusively through public donations.

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.

(more)

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
Starsky	1982-1988	Officer Hutchinson	Louie	1997-2005	Officer Jackson
Cassidy	1983-1990	Officer Hoppert	Stryker	2005-2010	Officer Anselment
Colonel	1988-1992	Officer Sander	Dagger	2004-2011	Officer Long
Hunter	1991-1992	Officer Hawkins	Razor	2011-2014	Officer Hasselman
Mack	1992-1996	Officer Sander	Echo	2010-2016	Officer Archambault
Buck	1993-1997	Officer Flaten	Rex	2014-Present	Officer Hasselman
Baron	1997-2004	Officer Long			

For more information on the Burnsville K-9 Unit or to make a donation visit www.burnsville.org/K9.