



**CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
952-895-4600 • Fax 952-895-4640
www.burnsville.org/police

Eric Gieseke
Chief of Police



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Sergeant Matt Smith
Burnsville Police Department
O# 952-641-1100
matt.smith@burnsvillemn.gov

**BURNSVILLE K-9 JET TO RECEIVE DONATION OF
BULLET, STAB PROTECTIVE VEST**

In August, the Burnsville Police Department was notified that K-9 Officer Jet would receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization “Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.” The vest will be embroidered with the sentiment, “In memory of K9 Rocco, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.” Delivery of the vest is expected within eight to 10 weeks.

“Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.” is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, Mass., with a mission to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the U.S. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K-9 officers. Since its inception, “Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.” has provided more than 2,600 protective vests in 50 states – through private and corporate donations – at a cost of more than \$2.1 million.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K-9 graduates, as well as K-9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K-9 is \$950. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283 and a five-year warranty. The average weight is 4-5 lbs.

K-9 Jet recently finished a 12-week training course before hitting the streets with handler Officer Lauren Smith. When he is not working, Jet – who is from Slovakia – enjoys playing with his favorite toy, a Kong ball.

There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K-9s throughout the U.S. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities call “Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.” at 508-824-6978. The organization provides information, lists events and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

(Photo Below)

“WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN POLICING”



(High Resolution Photo Available Upon Request)

Cutline: *K-9 Jet will receive a new bullet, stab protective vest, donated by “Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.”*

For more information on the Burnsville Police Department visit www.burnsville.org/police.

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