

Media Release 03/30/16

Annapolis Police Department K9's Ciro, Peko, & Atos to Get Body Armor

Annapolis Police Department K9's Ciro, Peko, & Atos will receive bullet and stab protective vests thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Ciro, Peko, & Atos's vests are sponsored by David Marberger of Bay Ridge Wines and Spirits of Annapolis, MD and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9's, Inc". Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

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. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 1,700 protective vests, in 49 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 1.6 million dollars. All vests are custom made in the USA by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

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 K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$1,050.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,795 – \$2,234 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. 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.

K9 CIRO



K9 CIRO is a 3 year old German Shepherd, who is certified in Patrol Services and Narcotics Detection. He is assigned to Corporal Kevin Freeman, who has been with the Annapolis Police Department since April of 2000. Corporal Freeman has been a K9 Handler since 2013. K9 CIRO was purchased from Tarheel K9, located in Sanford, NC. K9 CIRO became a member of the Annapolis Police Department in March of 2013. Corporal Freeman and K9 CIRO conducted their formal Police K9 Training at the Anne Arundel County Police K9 Center, where they received more than 640 hours of training. K9 CIRO enjoys working **HARD** on-duty and **RELAXING** while off-duty.

K9 Peko



K9 PEKO is a three year old, German Shepherd/Malinois mixed breed. He is partnered with Sergeant Chris Tucker of the Annapolis Police Department and is certified in Explosive Detection and Patrol duties. K9 PEKO was purchased untrained and was trained through the Annapolis Police Department's K9 training program. He is certified to the Annapolis Police Department K9 Standards and through the International Police Work Dog Association. His initial training was completed in September of 2013 and he has worked the street since that time. While off duty K9 PEKO is obsessive about chasing his ball in the yard with the family children however, once at work he is serious in his assigned duties. Off duty he likes to play tirelessly in the yard. He has a mischievous side and likes to get into everything, including tons of mud and dirt. Unfortunately, he isn't a fan of taking a bath, which always proves to be fun. He has a special bed that once he is settled into on days off, he will lay and chew his Kong toy for hours. He has provided explosive sweeps at many high profile events and has had success in locating criminal suspects wanted for crimes including armed robbery, theft, and burglary. He excels at explosive sweeps but, it is obvious that what he really enjoys is tracking a man, which he does with a high sense of drive and excitement. While tracking is what he obviously enjoys the most,

he really doesn't have any work tasks that he dislikes, other than being stuck in the car waiting for the next call. He would much rather be out working.

K9 Atos



K9 ATOS is a three year old, German Shepherd/Malinois mixed breed. He is partnered with Officer Josh Ingretson of the Annapolis Police Department and is certified in Drug Detection and Patrol duties. K9 ATOS was purchased untrained and was trained through the Annapolis Police Department's K9 training program. He is certified to Annapolis Police Department K9 Standards and through the International Police Work Dog Association. His initial training was completed in September of 2013 and he has worked the street since that time. While off duty K9 ATOS loves to play ball and run the yard with the family children. While at work K9 ATOS is extremely driven. He excels at drug detection and has been very successful for the department in this venue. His high speed and intensity are effective at deterring or chasing down criminal

suspects intent upon escape. Yet his social nature makes him a favorite among school children and the general public during K9 demonstrations.