
Stratford Police Department News Release

For Immediate Release: **Stratford Police Announce Four-Legged Officers To Receive Protective Vests**

Stratford Police K-9's "Khan" and "Bravo" will be receiving bullet and stab protective vests thanks to the efforts of Vested Interest in K9s, Inc, a Massachusetts based non-profit organization. The charity received donations of \$1900 to cover the cost of both K9s vests from two Massachusetts sponsors, Samantha Gagnon, a 14 year old Dighton, MA resident made the donation for K-9 Bravo. Her fundraising efforts over the last four years have provided vests for six K-9s located in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The Brennan Family of Brockton, MA made the donation for K9 Khan. Since 2011 the Brennan family has donated four vests for K-9s in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Connecticut.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) all volunteer charity located in East Taunton, MA. Their mission is to provide protective vests for law enforcement dogs throughout the United States. Each vest costs \$950.00 and has a 5 year warranty. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially life saving body armor. Through private and corporate sponsorships, to date Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 580 protective vests, totaling more than \$550,000 to law enforcement agencies in 38 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

"We are very happy to have been awarded these vests for two of our K-9's and look forward to receiving them", said Police Chief Patrick Ridenhour. "The vests will certainly help to protect our K-9's when they are put in harm's way. A tremendous thank you goes to Vested Interest in K-9's, Inc. as well as the families who helped raise the funds to make this donation possible."

The vests are made by Armor Express of Central Lakes, MI. Regency Supply of Hyannis, MA then does custom embroidery on the body armor.

New Police K-9 graduates and K-9's with expired vests are eligible to apply for the ballistic vests. The program is open to U.S employed and certified K-9s who are at least 19 months of age.

For more information visit www.vik9s.org <<http://www.vik9s.org/>> or call 508-824-6978.

Donations can be made via their website or by mail to:

Vested Interest in K9s P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.