



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12501 South Hawthorne Boulevard, Hawthorne, California, 90250

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: March 14, 2016

Suitable For Public Dissemination

Hawthorne Police Department K9's Mido & Tango to get body armor

Hawthorne Police Department K9's Mido & Tango will receive bullet and stab protective vests thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Mido & Tango's vests are sponsored by the Hausman Family Foundation of CA and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by the Hausman Family Foundation". 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.

Contact: **Lieutenant A. Yoshida**

Detective Bureau Commander / Public Information Officer

(310) 349-2820 Detective Bureau / (310) 349-2727 Watch Commander

**Mido**

K9 Mido is a 4 year old Dutch Shepherd. K9 Mido is certified in patrol and narcotics work and is assigned to Officer Sarah Lewis. Officer Lewis and K9 Mido have been a part of the Hawthorne K9 Unit since 2014.

**Tango**

K9 Tango is a 2 ½ year old Belgian Malinois. He is a certified dual-purpose patrol explosive dog, assigned to Officer Erik Martin. Officer Martin has been a Hawthorne K9 handler for over nine years. Tango became a member of the Hawthorne Police Department in November 2014. Tango and Officer Martin are also members of the Hawthorne Police SWAT team.

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