

**Lake County Sheriff's Office  
John D. Idleburg, Sheriff**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Lake County Sheriff's Office • 25 South Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue • Waukegan, Illinois 60085

**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** February 14, 2019  
**Contact:** Sgt. Christopher Covelli  
**Office:** (847) 377-4180  
**Fax:** (847) 984-5738  
**E-Mail:** [ccovelli@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:ccovelli@lakecountyil.gov)

**K9 Boomer to Receive Body Armor Donation**

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is excited to announce K9 Boomer will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Boomer's vest is sponsored by Yorkville Paws & Claws and will be embroidered with the sentiment "Honoring those who served and sacrificed." 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 3,300 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$5.7 million dollars.

Sheriff John Idleburg said, "We are grateful for the donation from Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Boomer and his partner Deputy Brian Kilpatrick serve a very important role in Lake County. K9 Boomer and Deputy Kilpatrick serve as our explosive detection K9 Team. These two go into some very dangerous situations to keep our community safe, and this donation will help keep them safe."

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 \$950.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There is 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](http://www.vik9s.org) or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

**End of Release**