



## Public Information Release

For more information, call:

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### **Bloomington Police Department K9 Brody has been awarded a bullet- and stab-proof vest**

The Bloomington Police Department's K9 Brody has been awarded a ballistic vest thanks to a nonprofit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., and an anonymous donor who provided \$950 for the vest.

#### **About K9 Brody**

K9 Brody is a two-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepard mix. He is certified in patrol and narcotics work and is assigned to Officer Jeremy Pilcher of the Bloomington Police Department. K9 Brody is Officer Pilcher's first K9 partner and they have been working together since March of 2014. Brody is originally from Slovakia and attended four months of training with Officer Pilcher upon his arrival to the United States. Brody is always excited to go to work and enjoys working the overnight shift with Officer Pilcher. On his days off, Brody enjoys going for walks and playing tug-of-war with his favorite rope toy.

#### **Who is Vested Interest in K9s Inc.?**

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. Each vest costs \$950 and has a five-year warranty. The nonprofit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., provided over 1,349 law enforcement dogs in 49 states with protective vests since 2009 at a cost of over \$1.2 million dollars.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. announces their 7" plush stuffed German Shepherd K9 Hero, "Cesar," and company ambassador of Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., now for sale online for \$15 at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org). Proceeds from the sales will provide bullet and stab protective vests for police dogs actively working without the potentially lifesaving equipment.

The organization orders the U.S.-made vests exclusively from distributor Regency Police Supply in Hyannis, MA. This company also does the custom embroidery on the body armor. Vests are manufactured by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

New K9 graduates as well as K9s with expired vests are eligible to participate. The program is open to law enforcement dogs who are US employed, certified and at least 19 months of age.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Tax deductible donations accepted via mail to: Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718, or via the website: [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org).

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*Photo follows on next page.*

*Attribution: City of Bloomington, MN*



Officer Jeremy Pilcher with K9 Officer Brody