



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

News Release

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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY K9 UNIT IS AWARDED NEW K9
BALLISTIC VESTS THANKS TO A NON-PROFIT GROUP AND
GROUPON**

A nationwide Groupon Event for East Taunton's, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has raised over \$155,000 in 8 days.

HONOLULU – The Department of Public Safety's Sheriff K9 Unit will be receiving five bulletproof vests thanks to a nationwide animal related GROUPON event than ran March 13 through March 20, 2013.

Vested Interest in K9's Inc., was the non-profit organization and charity partner selected by Groupon Grassroots to participate. People could give a \$10 donation to Vested Interest in K9's Inc. through Groupon. All funds were allocated to purchase ballistic vests for our four-legged crime fighters who put their lives on the line for our community and their Deputy partners.

"Our K9's are sent alone into dark buildings and other dangerous situations, and all they have for protection is a collar," said Deputy Sheriff Frank Lacadin. "We realized there is a critical need to improve safety for our K9 partners".

Deputy Sheriff K9 Handler, Frank Lacadin, worked with Vested Interest in K9's Inc. President Sandy Marciel to get all the legwork done such as measurements, and to submit the requests for five vests in time for the fundraising effort.

The non-profit met their goal of raising \$95,000 to provide 100 K9s with ballistic vests in just three days. At the close of the campaign on March 20th, Vested Interest in K9s Inc. had raised \$155,375. That money will provide 163 K9s with vests in 30 states. Hawaii Sheriffs will be awarded the five vests they requested.

ABOUT VESTED INTEREST IN K9S, INC.

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Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) all volunteer charity located in East Taunton, MA. whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests for law enforcement dogs 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 life saving body armor for their four legged K9 Officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided 66 police dogs with protective vests in 2012. In September of 2012, the non-profit hit a milestone of donating \$100,000 in protective vests to law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

The organization orders the U.S. made vests exclusively from distributor Regency Police Supply in Hyannis, MA. who also does the custom embroidery on the body armor.

New K9 graduates as well as K9's with expired vests are eligible to be added to the organization's waiting list.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. currently has a list of over 20 police dogs needing vests.

The organization is still accepting donations through their website: www.vik9s.org.

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