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Local businesses fund protective vests for police department K9

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SUBMITTED PHOTO BODY ARMOR: Thanks to Dartmouth Dental and Panagakos Development, Dartmouth Police have a new bullet and stab protective vest for their K9 Belgian Shepherd, Reaper. The groups' President, Sandy Marcal, along with Officer White and K9 Reaper, attended a vesting ceremony hosted by Dartmouth Dental, North Dartmouth on March 1. Chief Timothy Lee, Officer Jared White and K9 Reaper would like to thank Dartmouth Dental and the Panagakos Development for their generous donations.

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April 06, 2011 12:00 AM

DARTMOUTH — Thanks to the generosity of two local businesses, Dartmouth's newest police dog, Reaper is a two year old Belgian bred, Belgian Shepherd is now equipped with a bullet and stab protective vest. Dartmouth Dental with locations in North Dartmouth and New Bedford and Panagakos Development in New Bedford made it possible for the crime fighter's new body armor. The cost of the body armor was \$1,006.

Both businesses have supported numerous ballistic vests over the past several years working with nonprofit Vested Interest in K-9s, Inc. of East Taunton. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests for law enforcement K9s in Massachusetts. Each vest costs between \$735 and \$1006. The group maintains a waiting list.

The groups' president, Sandy Marcal, along with Officer White and K9 Reaper, attended a vesting ceremony hosted by Dartmouth Dental, North Dartmouth on March 1. "It's a great pleasure working with the folks from Dartmouth Dental and Panagakos Development to secure protective vests for Massachusetts K9s. They have been amazing supporters of the program and we are grateful" said, Sandy Marcal.

For more information about Vested Interest in K9s, visit: www.vik9s.org or call (508) 824-6978. Tax deductible donations are accepted on line or at P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718

Reaper is a 2010 graduate of the Boston Police K9 Academy and has been in service since this past September. Officer Jared White and K9 Reaper underwent extensive training at the Boston Police K9 Academy and continue to train regularly. K9 Reaper is trained as a dual-purpose dog specializing in narcotic detection and patrol operations.

K9 Reaper is trained to recognize many types of narcotic odors and indicate to his handler upon finding them. He is also trained to search for missing persons, fleeing suspects, or those in hiding. He is trained in building and open area searches, suspect apprehension, and handler protection.

Officer White and K9 Reaper look forward to providing a valuable and much needed resource to the citizens of Dartmouth and any other agency who may request their services. Chief Timothy Lee, Officer Jared White and K9 Reaper would like to thank Dartmouth Dental and the Panagakos Development for their generous donations.

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