



MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff



News Release

For Immediate Release

December 11, 2018

Contact: Morton County PIO (701) 426-1587

Website: <http://www.co.morton.nd.us/>

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Morton County Sheriff's Office K9 Mako to get donation of body armor

Mandan, N.D. – Morton County Sheriff's Office K9 Mako will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Mako's vest is sponsored by an Anonymous Sponsor and will be embroidered with the sentiment "In honor of First Special Forces Group". Delivery is expected within eight to 10 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 3,200 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$5.7 million dollars.

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.

"Our K9 deputies are a key part of our office, and keeping them safe as they serve is a high priority," said Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier. "We are very grateful to receive this generous donation that allows us to better protect K9 Mako."

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 or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

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