

MEDIA RELEASE

**Owatonna Police Department
204 East Pearl Street
Owatonna, MN 55060**



**Keith E. Hiller
CHIEF OF POLICE**

For Release Immediately

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For Further Information Contact

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Owatonna Police Department's K9 Vegas to get donation of body armor

Owatonna Police Department's K9 Vegas will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Vegas' vest will be embroidered with the sentiment "Honoring those who served and sacrificed". Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

K9 Vegas is a two-year-old German Shepherd and is certified by the National Police Canine Association in both patrol work and narcotics detection. Vegas has been a member of the Owatonna Police Department since August 2019.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity 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. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 4,004 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old, actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$960 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty. 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 donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

