



# ST. LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEWS RELEASE

INCIDENT DATE: 10/10/14 INCIDENT TIME: 2:30 PM  
INCIDENT LOCATION: St. Louis County

INDIVIDUAL(S) INVOLVED: (Refer to News Media Policy-Rules III A.1 Thru 4; Procedures B.1, A thru J & 1; 2b, 3b, g & h; 4a, b, & c)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### INCIDENT SUMMARY:

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office was awarded new ballistic K-9 vests for four (4) of it's K-9's units. See attached for further information.

### ASSISTING AGENCIES:

AUTHORITY: Lt. Jason Akerson DATE: 10/13/2014 TIME: 1:30 PM

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR UPDATE:

AUTHORITY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Foundation funds \$8500 in protective vests for Minnesota K9's**

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office has been awarded K-9 vests through nationwide non-profit.

The four K-9's from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office (**KILO, ROSCOE, LOUIE and DIESEL**) have been awarded ballistic vest/s thanks to a non-profit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and The French Foundation. The \$8500 grant will be providing vests for the following departments in Minnesota; 4 K9's from St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, 1 K9 from Fairmont Police Department, 1 K9 from Winona Police Department, 1 K9 from Leech Lake Tribal Police Department, 1 K9 from Winona County Sheriff's Office, and 1 K9 from Duluth Police Department.

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 \$950.00 and has a 5 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 over 1100 law enforcement dogs in 39 states with protective vests since 2009 at a cost of \$1,045,000.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. announces their calendar on sale now for \$15.00 online at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org) and at select retailers. Proceeds from the sales will provide bullet and stab protective vests. All goods and services for the calendar were

donated by generous sponsors, photographers and participating law enforcement agency, 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. who also does the custom embroidery on the body armor. Vests are manufacturer by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

New K9 graduates as well as K9's 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).

See attached information below regarding the four K-9's currently working for the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office.



**KILO**

Kilo is a German shepherd who specializes in narcotics detection, tracking, apprehension, handler protection and article search. He's also a valued member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team. Kilo is from the Czech Republic and joined the Sheriff's Office in 2011.

"Our K-9 partners face the same dangers that Deputies and Officers do every shift. Unfortunately, there are not the same grants to help pay for K-9 ballistic vests as there are for peace officers. Vested Interest in K9's fills a very necessary gap in helping to get our K9 partners the protection they deserve."

Deputy Brandon Silgjord

St. Louis County Sheriff's Office



**ROSCOE**

K-9 Roscoe is a German Shepherd from the Czech Republic. He joined the Sheriff's Office in 2012 following a 14-week training program.

Roscoe is a "dual purpose" patrol dog, meaning he is trained as a narcotics detector K-9 and as a patrol K-9 for tracking people, criminal apprehensions and evidence recovery.

## **DIESEL**



Another new addition to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, Diesel began his work in June of 2014 after attending three month training with his handler, Deputy Ben Fye.

Diesel is a German Shepherd from the Czech Republic and a dual purpose K-9 trained in narcotics detection, evidence recovery, suspect search and tracking.



**LOUIE**

Louie is one St. Louis County's newest K-9s, beginning his service in June 2014. He is a German Shepherd from the Czech Republic and a dual purpose K-9 trained in narcotics detection, evidence recovery, suspect search, and tracking.

"It's a big deal to get the ballistic vest. It will give a layer of protection for the dog, whose job it is to protect us."

Deputy Tim Officer

St. Louis County Sheriff's Office

"The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office is very grateful for the efforts of Vested Interest in K9s Inc. for providing these ballistic vests to our K-9 partners. Without the time, efforts and dedication of Vested Interest in K9s Inc. many of the working K-9's would not be able to attain this potentially life-saving equipment."

Lt. Jason Akerson

St. Louis County Sheriff's Office