



Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information

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Central Falls Police Department K9 Axel will be receiving a new ballistic vest:

The Central Falls Police Department's K9 Axel has been awarded a ballistic vest thanks to a nonprofit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., and a Massachusetts resident, Sarah Diehl. Ms. Diehl donated \$950.00 to the nonprofit to cover the cost of the K9's bullet and stab protective vest which has a 5 year warranty. The vest will be embroidered in "In Loving Memory of Dr. Jed Diehl, VMD". Dr. Jonathan "Jed" Diehl was co-founder of Winchester Veterinary Group, Winchester, MA. Dr. Diehl practiced there for over 20 years.

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 nonprofit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four legged K9 Officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 1198 law enforcement dogs in 40 states with protective vests since 2009 at a cost of \$1,138,100.00.

The organization orders the U.S. made vests exclusively from the distributor Regency Police Supply in Hyannis, MA. who also does the custom embroidery on the body armor. Vests are manufactured by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

K9 Axel, a Belgium Malinois, was officially sworn in as a member of the Central Falls Police Department last December, having been used

exclusively as a patrol dog. However, he has recently been certified, along with his handler, in narcotics detection during an extensive program administered by the Rhode Island State Police at no cost to the city.

“The Central Falls police department is unwavering in our commitment to our residents; the K9 program is yet another mechanism in furtherance of our mission, which is to make the City of Central Falls a better place to live, work and visit”, said the police chief, Colonel James J. Mendonca “We are immensely grateful for this generous donation and the continued support from all involved in this extraordinarily important grant program.”

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