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Sheriff Lou Vallario
Garfield County, Colorado

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 27, 2024

Time: 12:20 PM

Title: **K9 Hera Receives a Donation of Body Armor**

IMPORTANT: Please direct any media requests to the contact above. Do not contact the Garfield County Emergency Communications Center or Patrol staff for media requests.

GARFIELD COUNTY, CO. –



K9 Hera Sports her new "Body Armor"

Garfield County Sheriff's Office K9 Hera has received donation of body armor

Garfield County Sheriff's Office, CO, K9 Hera has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Hera's vest was sponsored by Suzanne Sammut of Pawleys Island, SC and embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Suzanne".

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 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,760 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 and 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 \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1800.00, 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.

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office is thankful for the donation of this vest by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. This makes the sixth vest that Vested Interest has provided to the Garfield County Sheriff's Office to help protect our K9 partners.

No additional information will be released.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people through professional, ethical and compassionate conduct.

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