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<u>**For Immediate Release**</u>

NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision K9's Ryder, Rocky, Rodger, & BoBo to Get Body Armor

NYSCOPBA Partners With Vested Interest in K9s

Albany, NY – New York State Department of Corrections & Community Supervision K9's Ryder, Rocky, Rodger, & BoBo will receive bullet and stab protective vests thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

K9 Ryder, Rocky, Rodger, & BoBo's vests are sponsored by New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by NYSCOPBA"

Delivery is expected within eight to ten 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 2,400 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 2.1 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.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is $1,050.00. Each vest has a value between $1,795 – $2,234 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 the web address below.

http://www.vik9s.org/