



# WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

50 Jesup Road

Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

Telephone: 203-341-6000 Fax: 203-341-6092

Foti Koskinas  
Chief of Police

## **Westport Police Department's K9 Onyx to Get Donation of Body Armor**

Westport Police Department's K9 Onyx will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Onyx's vest is sponsored by Family and Friends of John Buffone and will be embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of John Buffone - Beloved husband and Dad". 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 3,100 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$5.7 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 \$950.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283 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 [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org) or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.



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**Lieutenant Jillian Cabana**

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