



# St. Petersburg Police News Release



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## Media Relations Office

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For Immediate Release:  
March 15, 2017

St Petersburg Police Department's K9 Mafia, Ares, Crush, Tyson, Nero, Danno and Maverick to get body armor.

St Petersburg Police Department's K9 Mafia, Ares, Crush, Tyson, Nero, Danno and Maverick will each receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

K9 Mafia, Ares, Crush, Tyson, Nero's vest are sponsored by Michael & Kim Kraft of FL and will be embroidered with the sentiment "Because you give so much and ask for so little - M & K".

K9 Danno's vest is sponsored by Kristan Coad of St. Petersburg, FL and will be embroidered with the sentiment "Born to love - Trained to serve - Loyal always".

K9 Maverick's vest is sponsored by an Anonymous Sponsor and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.".

"The vests will give us peace of mind in high risk situations, knowing the K9's will be protected," said St. Petersburg Police K9 Trainer, Officer Jeremy Krzyasiak.

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 1.9 million dollars. All vests are custom made in the USA by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

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 [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org) or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

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Photo available at <https://www.media-alert.com/listings/Person.aspx?id=73980>

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