



The New Britain Police Department's K9 Marley has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Marley's vest is sponsored by Protectors of Animals of East Hartford, CT and embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Protectors of Animals, Inc".

Marley is 2.5 years old and the City of New Britain's first police bloodhound. She is assigned to the Patrol Division to 10 year veteran Officer Matthew Sloate. She has been with Officer Sloate since she was 4 months old and was first certified at 10 months old. Marley has already established herself as a terrific police asset and is credited for successful tracks, including locating persons whose health and welfare were at risk.

Marley is certified in man trailing through the National Police Bloodhound Association, Connecticut Police Work Dog Association and Northeast Houndsmen Association. Marley assists the patrol division in tracking lost or missing children, adults and criminals who have fled the scene of a crime. Marley is an important part of the patrol division having helped locate over 10 people in her short career.

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 or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.