Columbus Police Department

P.O. Box 1866 – 510 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1866

Stoney Mathis
Chief of Police

L. H. Deaton
Assistant Chief

R. L. Graham
Assistant Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2026
Media Contact: Brittany Santiago
706-225-4462

Columbus Police Department's K9 Olive has received donation of body armor

Columbus Police Department, GA - K9 Olive has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Olive's vest is sponsored by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.".

"Our K9s serve alongside our officers and face many of the same dangers. Providing them with the proper protection is important to their safety and their ability to serve our community," said Columbus Police Chief Stoney Mathis. "We appreciate Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. for their generosity and commitment to protecting our four-legged officers. This donation is a valuable investment in Olive's safety."



Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. was 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 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 6,677 vests valued at $6.9 million to K9s in all 50 states, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs 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 $1,050 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of $1800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lbs., 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

###