



SMPD K9 PROGRAM



For Immediate Release
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South Milwaukee Police Department Creates 501(c)(3) Organization to Fundraise for K9 Unit

In late 2022, the [South Milwaukee Police Department announced](#) our intent to fundraise for and implement a K9 unit. An internal committee has been created with representatives from the SMPD and the City's Administration Department. In January, paperwork was filed with the IRS to establish a 501(c)(3) organization.

Through donations already received, [sales for our K9 t-shirts and plush dogs](#), and a penny war being organized by the School District of South Milwaukee, our fundraising is off to a great start. With the public's help, we expect to have a K9 join the force by the end of 2023.

Sales of our t-shirts and plush dogs will continue at the SMPD counter at South Milwaukee City Hall. Donations can also be dropped off or mailed to the SMPD at 2424 15th Avenue in South Milwaukee. Checks can be made out to the SMPD K9 Program.

A fundraising campaign with our business community will be starting soon as well. Commitments to support the K9 have already been made by Oak Creek Veterinary Care Clinic, Walmart, Farm & Fleet, and the South Milwaukee Lions Club.

Said South Milwaukee Mayor Jim Shelenske: "Thank you to those who have already donated or purchased a t-shirt or plush dog. I am very proud of the work the SMPD does and I am excited at the prospect of expanding their capabilities with the addition of a K9 unit."

Said South Milwaukee Police Chief William Jessup: "We are constantly striving to provide the best police service possible and I believe the addition of a K9 will enhance the police-community relationship. It will provide additional capability during certain types of investigations and will be a great way for children to engage with our officers during community events. We look forward to making this new initiative happen and are excited about the possibilities."

Through our research, we plan to choose from three dog breeds, including Belgian Malinois, German shepherd, and Dutch shepherd. The committee will also be launching an internal application process to choose the SMPD officer who will work with the K9.

For more information, please contact:
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