



CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

18 East 22nd St.
Kearney, NE 68848-1180
(308) 233-3214
www.cityofkearney.org

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Point of Contact: Bryan D. Waugh, Chief of Police, 308-233-5265

KEARNEY POLICE ADDS SECOND POLICE SERVICE DOG TEAM

In an effort to maintain a consistent, cohesive, highly trained K-9 Unit, the Kearney Police Department will add a second Police Service Dog Team serving both KPD and BCSO. The addition of a second Police Service Dog Handler and dog will allow the department to have a K-9 Unit on Duty covering both patrol shifts. The K-9 Unit will also be utilized as an opportunity to further engage the community during events throughout the City.

The opportunity to add this valuable resource was made possible thanks to a generous, anonymous donation. The donation will cover the costs associated with purchasing the dog, vehicle, equipment and training.

After a competitive selection process, Officer Jon Alstrom was selected as the K-9 handler for the new Police Service Dog. Alstrom has been a Police Officer with KPD for 2 years, assigned to the Patrol Division. The new K-9 has been selected and purchased from Canine Tactical in Chariton, Iowa, after arriving in the United States from Holland. Both Alstrom and his new K-9 partner are currently attending the Nebraska State Patrol Basic Police Canine camp in Grand Island. This is a twelve week course covering obedience, narcotics detection, patrol, tracking, apprehension, and officer protection. Alstrom and his partner will be required to successfully complete a mandated certification in both patrol and narcotics detection prior to deployment.

Alstrom will join our current Police Service Dog team, Officer Paul Cox and his partner, "Kira" a 7 ½ year old Belgian Malinois. "Kira" and Officer Cox have been on-duty with KPD since November 2017 and previously worked for the BCSO since 2014.

While we are excited to introduce our newest K-9, we will have to wait until the training and certification process are complete. Follow Kearney Police on social media, where we will introduce our newest Police K-9 in a few short weeks.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

cc: City Council
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