



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

POLICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Retired Law Enforcement Officers Raised Money for Punta Gorda Police Canine Bulletproof Vest

The Punta Gorda Police Department has received a bulletproof vest for the department’s newest police canine, Officer Spirit.

On behalf of his organization, Ray Hubbert, President of the Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida, partnered with the Charlotte Community Foundation – *Lillian J. Adams Fund for Animal Welfare* to purchase the vest. With the purchase of the vest, Officer Spirit, the second department police canine in 16 years, will now be safer while patrolling our streets. The canine vest program was started by the Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida in 2009 with the first recipient being Punta Gorda Police Canine Jedi. Since that time 40 police canine vests have been put on Southwest Florida police canines completely through community donations.



Chief Albert (Butch) Arenal stated, “Police canines don’t just track missing children, detect drugs, apprehend criminals, and protect the public; they save officer’s lives. We sincerely thank our brothers and sisters of the Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida and the staff of the Charlotte Community Foundation for helping us to protect Spirit as he hits the streets of Punta Gorda.”

Today, a dedication for the new vest was held with the Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida and the Charlotte Community Foundation at the Punta Gorda Police Department. If anyone would like to donate to this worthy program, contact President Ray Hubbard at rayhubbert@embarqmail.com or send a donation check to Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida, PO Box 494736, Port Charlotte, Florida 33949.



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