



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 2013

For more information, contact:
KCPD Media Unit
816-234-5170

Hot dog vendor donates bullet-resistant vest to KCPD canine

A woman who raised funds for a bullet-resistant dog vest by selling hot dogs will donate the vest to Kansas City Police canine officer Bela on Friday.

The presentation will take place at 1 p.m. Sept. 20 at the Lowe's store at 8601 N. Broadway Ave.

Janet Canseco owns J&R's Hot dogs, a small, family-run hot dog cart that operates outside the Lowe's store in the Boardwalk Shopping Center in Kansas City, North, and does private catering. They typically operate spring through fall, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. Canseco donates most of the cart's profits and 100 percent of its tips to an organization called Vest'n PDP. Vest'n PDP purchases bullet-resistant vests for police canines around the country. Canseco has raised money for four vests for dogs from North Carolina to California, but this will be the first one for a Kansas City canine.

Canseco said she and her husband and daughter are big dog lovers, and when they opened the hot dog cart as a side business, they wanted it to be something bigger than themselves.

"My heart would always go out to the dog that got deployed to a drug house," she said. "You don't know what's behind those walls. They're risking their lives to protect us and the perpetrator – because they can deploy the dog instead of shooting the suspect."

The vests typically cost between \$1,600 and \$2,400, Canseco said.

KCPD does not have the money for those vests in its budget, Canine Unit Supervisor Sergeant Carl Abraham said.

"We had several donated years ago, but we added dogs, and some of the newer ones don't have one," Abraham said.

While Canseco has helped outfit canines nationwide, she wanted this vest to go to a local police dog. Canine Bela, a Belgian Malinois whose human partner is Officer Kenneth Davis, will receive the new vest.

Sergeant Abraham said the dogs wear the vests in situations with a high risk of being shot, such as those involving active shooters or suspects who have threatened officers.

###