



# INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Takoma Park Police Department



**Date:** April 20, 2022

**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Chief Antonio B. DeVaul

**Re:** Successful Canine Deployments

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Below is a list of several incidents where the use of our canine teams was instrumental in the recovery of evidence and/or the apprehension of violent criminal offenders.

**1. October 25, 2014- Mutual Aid- MPDC- 5400 Block of New Hampshire Avenue-**

MPDC requested our assistance for a stolen auto stop and the occupants fled the scene on foot. Canine Team Cpl. Black/Kota tracked from the location of the stolen auto to the location of the driver, who was hiding in an alley on Missouri Avenue, N.E. The subject was taken into custody without canine contact. An article search located the sweatshirt that the driver discarded as he fled.

**2. September 12, 2015- Stabbing- 7680 New Hampshire Avenue-**

Canine Team Cpl. Black/Kota tracked from the location of the stabbing to the location of the suspect. The victim was stabbed in the stomach during a physical altercation and transported to MedStar. A track from the location of the stabbing led to the location of the suspect who was hiding under stairs in an alley. An article search recovered a box cutter behind a dumpster in the area where the suspect was located.

**3. December 27, 2015- Mutual Aid/Warrant Service- 7801 Lockney Avenue-**

Canine Team Pfc. Jimenez/Zoro was requested to assist Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputies with the service of an arrest warrant on a violent offender who is known to flee from the police. The canine team was utilized as perimeter security. After seeing the canine team through a window, the subject surrendered without incident.

**4. March 27, 2016- Mutual Aid- MCPD-Burglary-511 Cannon Rd, SS-**

Canine Team Black/Kota was requested for a track of 4 residential burglary suspects. MCPD units had 4 possible subjects stopped at another location. Black/Kota tracked from the location of the burglary to the location that the subjects were stopped. All subjects were later identified by a witness.

**5. March 31, 2016- Vehicle Scan- CDS Violation- 332 Oswego Ave-**

Canine Team Black/Kota was requested to conduct a scan of a vehicle that was seized by SAT

for suspected CDS violation. Kota made a positive alert on the vehicle and a search warrant was obtained to search the vehicle. The search revealed \$30,000 U.S. Currency and a loaded handgun. Kota's scan and positive alert on one particular area outside of the vehicle lead to a hidden compartment inside the vehicle, where the cash and gun were located.

**6. May 19, 2016- Armed Robbery- Track/Article Search-2 Darwin Ave-**

Canine Team Jimenez/Zoro was requested after an armed robbery had occurred. The victim stated that he was robbed at gunpoint of his backpack, wallet, headphones, and shoes. Zoro tracked to Takoma Piney Branch Park where he located the victim's backpack with his belongings inside. Zoro continued to track and located a black handgun that was later determined to be a BB gun. A juvenile suspect was later identified and charged.

**7. October 11, 2016- Robbery- Track- 7801 Chicago Avenue-**

Canine Team Jimenez/Zoro was requested to track the suspects of a robbery that just occurred. The victim was robbed of his skateboard and cell phone by 2 suspects. A perimeter was set and the track led to Sligo Avenue which flushed the suspects out of hiding and they were seen running on Fenton Avenue. They were stopped and positively identified after a show-up.

**8. October 21, 2016- Mutual Aid/Traffic Stop- Vehicle Scan- University/E.Wayne-**

Canine Team Jimenez/Zoro was requested by MCPD to scan a vehicle during a traffic stop. Zoro gave a positive alert for CDS in the vehicle. During the probable cause search of the vehicle, marijuana and a loaded handgun were found in the center console.

**9. June 12, 2017- Attempt Armed Carjacking- Track- Tulip Avenue-**

Canine Team Pederesen/Ryker was requested after a group of female suspects attempted to carjack a woman after dropping her kids off at the daycare center on Tulip Avenue. The suspects were armed with a taser and tased the victim who fought off her attackers, who fled on foot. Ryker tracked from the location of the incident to Valley View Avenue, where they located the suspects hiding behind a shed in a backyard. All 4 females were arrested without canine contact and positively identified as the suspects.

**10. March 8, 2018- Mutual Aid/Article Search- MCPD- Rt. 118/Father Hurley Blvd-**

Canine Team Garrison/Drogo was requested by MCPD to conduct a large area search/article search after they were involved in foot pursuit the previous evening at that location. The officers suspected that the subject threw an object but due to the size of the area to search and the high grass and bushes, they were not able to find what was discarded. Drogo searched the area and located a loaded handgun in a large bush that was in the path in which the suspect fled.

**11. July 25, 2018- Shooting- Article Search- 6300 New Hampshire Ave-**

Canine Team Garrison/Drogo was requested after an officer-involved shooting. The TPPD officer was shot at several times by the suspect after fleeing from an arrest. Return fire struck the suspect who then attempted to discard the handgun. Drogo searched the area and located a handgun that was later positively determined to be the handgun used to shoot at our officer.

**12. June 02, 2019- Commercial Burglary-Track- 6803 Belford Dr.-**

Canine Team Muzzatti/Kota was requested for a track after several commercial burglaries

occurred in the 1100 Block of University Blvd and the 6800 Block of New Hampshire Ave that appeared to be committed by the same suspect. Responding officers observed a subject fleeing from the rear of a business in the 6800 block of New Hampshire Avenue and lost him in the wood line. Kota began tracking and located the subject who was attempting to conceal himself in the bushes. He was arrested without canine contact. He is a serial commercial burglar and his arrest closed out numerous burglaries in several jurisdictions.

**13. August 10, 2020- Building Search/Canine Injury- 7300 New Hampshire Ave-**

Canine Team Muzzatti/Kota was requested to search a church after the alarm was activated. While searching the third floor, Kota leaped on a small door that led to the second-floor banquet room and bit his tongue. The search was called off to inspect his injuries and the remaining portion of the building had to be searched by the available members of the squad.

**14. November 15, 2020- CDS/Vehicle Scan-Ethan Allen/Jackson Ave-**

Canine Team Muzzatti/Kota was requested to conduct a vehicle scan for narcotics. Kota gave a positive response for CDS in the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed marijuana in the center console.

**15. January 1, 2021- CDS/Vehicle Scan- New Hampshire/Poplar Ave-**

Canine Team Muzzatti/Kota was requested to conduct a vehicle scan during a traffic stop. Kota gave a positive alert for CDS in the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed a large bag of marijuana concealed between the driver's seat and center console.

These are just some of the examples of the professional work that our canine teams have performed over the years.