

Kenosha



County

MEMORANDUM

Communication to Kenosha County Board of Supervisors
(For Informational Purposes Only)

COMMUNICATION TO APPEAR ON COUNTY BOARD MEETING AGENDA: 01/16/2024

SUBJECT: A Resolution Requesting the State Legislature Increase the Penalties for Harming or Killing a Law Enforcement K9

COMMITTEE: Choose a Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Vice Chair Decker

RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED AT Choose a Committee **COMMITTEE ON** [Click here to enter a date.](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional):



KENOSHA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Resolution No. _____

Subject:

**A Resolution Requesting the State Legislature
Increase the Penalties for Harming or Killing a Law Enforcement K9**

Original ☐ Revised ☒ 2nd Correction ☐ Resubmitted ☐

Date Submitted: 11/29/2023

Date Resubmitted: 12/8/2023

Submitted by: Vice Chair Decker, Supervisors Rodriguez, Stocker, Thomas, Poole, Geertsen, and Nedweski

Fiscal Note Attached ☐

☐ Legal Note Attached

Prepared by: Vice Chair Decker, Deputy Tift, and
Sergeant Malecki

Signature: *Elin Decker*

WHEREAS, Kenosha County has long been committed to supporting its law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department created the K9 Unit in has five K9 Deputies in active service, and these K9 Deputies and their handlers are:

- K9 Riggs and Deputy Tift on active patrol
- K9 Klaus and Deputy Lancot on active patrol
- K9 Arlo and Deputy Kasulke on active patrol
- K9 Riv and Deputy Booth on active patrol
- K9 Ludo and Corrections Officer Loesch in Kenosha County Sheriff Detentions

WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department K9 Deputies are beloved members of the Department and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department K9 Deputies are hard-working members of the sheriff's department and put their lives in danger daily to keep us safe in our homes, places of work, and on the streets; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department K9 Deputies help law enforcement personnel perform their jobs in a safer and more efficient manner thus saving the Sheriff's Department hundreds of man-hours every year; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies use man's best friend to assist in a variety of tasks that K9 Deputies freely and willingly go into areas other deputies are not able to, and they rely on the K9 teams to use their special abilities to help us locate suspects, evidence, narcotics, explosives, or missing persons quickly; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement K9 handlers are required to give announcements to suspects putting the handler and K9 at a disadvantage as the suspect knows where they are, what they intend to do, and who is coming to look for them; and

WHEREAS, there has been a significant increase in shootings and stabbings of law enforcement K9s across this country as they perform their jobs; and

WHEREAS, K9 Deputy Riggs was shot in the head on October 21, 2021, and amazingly survived his injuries, made a complete recovery, and is back on patrol; and

WHEREAS, under Wisconsin State Statute 951.18(2m), the penalty for intentionally injuring a known law enforcement K9 is a Class I felony which the lowest class of felony and is punishable by up to 3.5 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$10,000; and the penalty for killing a law enforcement K9 is a Class H felony and is punishable by up to 6 years in prison and fines of up to \$10,000;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the State of Wisconsin change state statutes deeming law enforcement K9s as property and increase penalties for the intentional injury or killing of said K9s; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors commends and recognizes all the work our K9s Deputies and their handlers who keep Kenosha County safe, enforce the rule of law, and respond in times of crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Kenosha County's state legislative delegations, Governor Evers, all other Wisconsin counties, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.



Erin Decker

Zach Rodriguez

Tim Stocker

Brian Thomas

John Poole

Dave Geertsen

Amanda Nedweski