



COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**



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SHERIFF

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CHIEF DEPUTY

GREGORY L. WOMELSDORF
CAPTAIN



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Montco Sheriff's K9s get official police ID badges

A new Pennsylvania law places harsh penalties on those who harm or kill police K9s.

Norristown, Pa., (August 5, 2014) – Montgomery County Sheriff's Office K9s Bikkel, Behr and Artus received their official law enforcement badges during a press conference at the Courthouse on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. Perpetrators who want to bring harm to the dogs will now know they are not just dealing with a domestic animal, but an officer of the law. A newly passed Pennsylvania law, Rocco's Law, puts maximum penalties of 10 years in prison or a \$25,000 fine for hurting or killing a police dog.

Sheriff Russell Bono, District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Commissioner Chair Joshua Shapiro spoke about the importance of the law in protecting their fellow K9 officers. Bono highlighted the point that the dogs often work outside of the courthouse in risky situations along with their handlers.

"Our K9s work all over the county," said Bono. "Recently, they were involved in a search for missing children in Lansdale and discovered drugs in the gas cap of a vehicle in Norristown the other day."

Ferman worked with the previous sheriff on bringing the K9s in, and paid the tab on two drug-sniffing patrol dogs with confiscated drug money. A third dog trained for bomb detection was paid for by a U.S. Federal Homeland Security Grant.

Shapiro, who had worked on introducing K9 protection legislation in earlier years said, "Giving the K9s badges lets everyone know how much we value them as partners and part of the community."



PHOTO: Montgomery County Dep. Trevor Keller, K9 Artus, Commissioner Joshua Shapiro, Dep. Thomas Franklin, K9 Behr, District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, Sheriff Russell Bono, Dep. Sean Forsyth, K9 Bikkel.

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