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I would like to nominate Officer Hanizeski and her canine partner Kuiper for the Meritorious Track with Apprehension of the Year award.

Officer Hanizeski and her K-9 partner Kuiper were dispatched to a mutual aid call for South Milwaukee PD. They had gotten into a pursuit with a subject W/B on E College Ave for a suspected hand to hand drug deal. The officer pursuing the suspect lost sight of the vehicle as he crested the hill in 2200B E College Ave. The suspect crashed into the curb and the vehicle became disabled. The suspect fled from the vehicle in an unknown direction other than north, somewhere into an industrial park. The vehicle listed to a female, but the driver was an unknown male. The vehicle was searched prior to the K-9 teams' arrival on scene and there was a loaded 9mm handgun with an extended magazine inside along with 433g of marijuana.

Officer Hanizeski arrived on scene and the vehicle was still on scene. She placed K9 Kuiper into his tracking harness and had him take the driver's specific scent off of the driver's seat. That particular industrial park is very busy with a large amount of traffic going in and out of the different parking lots. The entire area is on hard surface asphalt and concrete which made it a much more difficult track. The weather was about 80 degrees with a light NE wind.

Once K9 Kuiper took the driver's scent off the seat, Officer Hanizeski brought him to the sidewalk where he immediately picked up the track northbound into the industrial park. He then turned west across a few business fronts before turning northbound into the large industrial parking lot area. There were multiple other people out in the area due to all the open businesses. K9 Kuiper tracked to the north and east along several businesses. He also specifically tracked east along the backside of a baking business pausing in the area before turning back north. K9 Kuiper was actively tracking for about 0.5 mile when a Cudahy police officer saw the suspect running northbound about 2 miles north of our current location.

Officer Hanizeski then ran all the way back to where her squad was parked and got K9 Kuiper back into the squad. They responded to the 2000B E Birchwood Ave which was still in the industrial park. They met with Cudahy PD and was advised the suspect was last seen running north up a hill. Officer Hanizeski got K9 Kuiper out of the squad and he immediately pulled Officer Hanizeski up the hill and then west into a thick area of brush and woods. K9 Kuiper turned north into the thick brush and down an embankment. K9 Kuiper then stopped in a specific spot where

there was a fence that ran east to west. K9 Kuiper started to jump at the fence which indicated to me that the suspect had jumped over the fence.

Officer Hanizeski brought K9 Kuiper all the way to east to the end of the fence and entered an asphalt parking lot at 2024 E Birchwood Ave. Officer Hanizeski walked K9 Kuiper along the fence and he immediately picked the track back up at the same spot where he indicated the suspect had jumped it. K9 Kuiper tracked west through the parking lot and then turned north. K9 Kuiper came around a semi-truck that was parked and worked around the front of it to the driver's side. K9 Kuiper was in human odor at that point and I believed the suspect was hiding somewhere in or around the semi. As K9 Kuiper was sniffing the semi, I spotted an arm under the semi. I pulled K9 Kuiper back and started to give commands to the suspect. He initially would not show his other hand and was warned that he would be bitten if he did not comply. K9 Kuiper began barking at him as well. The suspect stuck his other hand out and I told my back up officers to pull him out since he would not crawl out.

Once the suspect was taken into custody, he was found to have \$2392 in US currency in a bag on his person. After the track was complete, the flight path was checked. A loaded Glock Gen 30 Gen4 .45 cal handgun was located directly along the flight path behind Alpha Baking where K9 Kuiper had paused and circled. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office charged the suspect in this case with fleeing/eluding an officer, felony possession of marijuana with intent to deliver (2nd+) with use of a dangerous weapon, as well as felon in possession of a firearm.

The total length of the track with having to run all the way back to the starting point was roughly 1 mile. The heat, hard surface terrain, and business of the area made it a very impressive track. If K9 Kuiper had not been able to have such a successful track, the case may not have been solvable. K9 Kuiper's track not only located the offender in this case but also recovered another firearm from a felon. For these reasons, I ask that you nominate Officer Hanizeski and Canine Kuiper for the Meritorious Track with Apprehension award.

Thank You for your consideration
Sgt. Michael J Musa
Oak Creek Police Department

