

August 15, 2023

To: WLECHA Awards Committee

Over the last year Officer Parker and K9 Drago of the Fitchburg Police Department have hit their stride. They have been an integral part of the Dane County area when it comes to apprehending and removing dangerous criminals from the street. Officer Parker and K9 Drago have exemplified what it means to be a K9 unit over the last several years. Not only have Officer Parker and K9 Drago received the K9 apprehension in years past, but they have received Rookie K9 Handler of the year. With these accomplishments it is understanding they are being nominated for K9 Handler of the year.

In the summer of 2022, Officer Parker and K9 Drago were assigned to the Dane County Narcotics Task Force investigating a prolific drug dealer who was involved in multiple shootings and weapons violations in the City of Madison and Fitchburg. There were many failed attempts to build a case on this subject and Officer Parker made it a priority to arrest the suspect. On Sept., 7 2022, Officer Parker set up a surveillance operation on the suspect. During the operation, the surveillance units lost eyes on the suspect vehicle and the op was almost scraped. Fortunately, the task force LT. located the vehicle and suspect in a parking lot of a pawn store where he observed an open air gun deal occurring. Based on the gun information it was determined that a high risk takedown of the suspect would be completed. The goal was to complete the takedown when the suspect was away from his vehicle and in the open parking lot. The suspect a short time later left his vehicle and went into a bank. It was decided the take down would happen when the suspect left the bank with the K9 unit. The suspect left the bank and was challenged by Officer Parker. The suspect immediately fled and Officer Parker gave chase while giving K9 warnings. Officer Parker simultaneously deployed K9 Drago using his door popper and called Drago to him. Officer Parker then directed K9 Drago to apprehend the suspect when he observed target lock with his K9 partner. K9 Drago pursued the suspect around the building past other officers in pursuit and apprehended the suspect just as he was trying to cross a busy roadway. The suspect was taken into custody without incident. K9 Drago then conducted a sniff of the suspect vehicle and over 100 grams of fentanyl laced crack cocaine was located in the vehicle. The suspect was arrested for multiple felony charges.

On Oct. 2022 Officer Parker responded to the area of Allied Dr for a report of shots fired in the area. Multiple callers reported the incident sounded like a gunfight and over 20 rounds were heard in the short period of time. Officer Parker located a vehicle attempting to leave the area with a bullet hole in the driver side front window. Officer Parker attempted to set a response to stop of the vehicle for the shooting investigation. Ultimately, the vehicle fled, and Officer Parker gave pursuit to the vehicle. The vehicle was pursued into a residential area where it crash into a roundabout and went airborne. The vehicle was completely disabled and the driver of the vehicle fled on foot towards the backyards of the homes with a firearm in his hands. K9 Drago apprehended the suspect in the lower leg and the suspect dropped the gun. Officer Parker came around the corner of the house and observed the suspect apprehended by K9 Drago. Officer Parker created distance and took cover while K9 Drago was on the

bite based on having no back-up at the time. The suspect cooperated and showed Officer Parker that he was unarmed. Officer Parker completed a recall of K9 Drago and waited for back up to show up prior to approaching the suspect. The suspect was successfully taken into custody and the handgun was located only a few yards away. The suspect was arrested for multiple felony charges.

On March 6th, 2023, an Officer with the City of Fitchburg attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. The vehicle immediately fled from the attempted stop and no pursuit was given. Officers responded to the area the vehicle was believed to be traveling and another Officer located the vehicle. The vehicle drove into a parking lot and immediately fled on foot from the vehicle. The officer reported he located a gun, which was later determined to be stolen, in the vehicle the suspect fled from. A perimeter was set up immediately and the suspect was located barricaded/hiding in a vehicle in an adjacent parking lot. Officer Parker and K9 Drago responded and set up a contact team and perimeter on the suspect's location. Once resources were in place, Officer Parker started providing K9 warnings to the suspect in the vehicle. Initially there was no response from the suspect but the suspect was seen making furtive movements in the back of the vehicle. Officer Parker started to make plans for a high risk take down of the vehicle with the use of K9 Drago. After a few minutes of no response from the suspect, the suspect suddenly exited the vehicle and started to run away from the officers. Officer Parker and K9 Drago gave immediate pursuit and K9 Drago was able to apprehend the suspect within 50 yards of the suspect running. The suspect continued to resist and Officer Parker with another officer were eventually able to take the suspect into custody while K9 Drago remained on the apprehension. K9 Drago was removed from the bite when the suspect was controlled. K9 Drago then assisted in the follow up investigation/search warrant where numerous other suspects were detained without incident due to K9 Drago's presence. Large amounts of drugs were located in the residence and multiple felony arrests were made as a result of the investigation.

On March 23, 2023, Officer Parker and K9 Drago responded to the City of Madison to assist with an occupied stolen vehicle in a parking lot of an apartment complex. The suspects in the vehicle were believed to be involved in multiple burglaries the previous night. A plan was developed to attempt a high-risk contact with the vehicle while it was parked. Just as units were moving up to contact the suspects, the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed out of the parking lot and towards a major roadway. Officers were able to successfully spike the vehicle as it fled and the vehicle ultimately crashed near a parking lot of an apartment complex. All four suspects, immediately fled on foot and Officer Parker with his K9 Partner were immediately on scene. Officer Parker and K9 Drago gave pursuit of the suspects giving K9 warnings. One suspect stopped in his track on got on the ground after hearing the warnings. Officer Parker recalled K9 Drago and bypassed the suspect who was taken into custody by other units also in pursuit. Officer Parker and K9 Drago continued after the other suspects who ran around one of the apartment buildings. Officer Parker again gave warnings but none of the suspect stopped. Officer Parker deployed K9 Drago and one of the suspect was successfully apprehended in the arm. Officer Parker took the suspect into custody with a Madison Officer while also attempting to give commands to the other suspects still fleeing. MPD K9 Officer Chase Lewis and Patton arrived on scene at the perfect moment and was able to take one of the suspects still running into custody without incident. Officer Lewis and Patton then located another suspect after a short track to a garage. The suspect was ordered out of the garage with the assistance of K9 Patton and taken into custody without incident. A total of 3 people were taken into custody all with the assistance of the K9 units teamwork.

April 29, 2023, officers were dispatched to 2501 Post Road regarding a disturbance. Dispatch advised they could hear screaming, yelling, and smacking, people yelling to call the cops. The call notes indicated the caller stated she heard the word "gun" screamed two minutes ago. When officers arrived on scene, it was reported that a victim was struck with a hand gun by the suspect. Officers confronted the suspect in the hallway of the apartment complex. During this time, the suspect displayed a firearm in the presence of the officers but through it to the ground near a small child. One Officer started to give commands to the suspect but the suspect refused to comply. The officer deployed a Taser at the suspect, which did not appear to immediately have a desired effect. The Officer then decided to decentralize the suspect to protect the child and keep the suspect away from the gun only a few feet from his person. The suspect immediately started to fight with the officers with the gun within a few feet their location. Officer Parker and K9 Drago ran down the hallway at this time and observed the officers struggling to control the suspect. Officer Parker decided to conduct an "applied bite" to the suspect's leg to create dysfunction and compliance. The apprehension had the desired effect and the suspect immediately complied and was taken into custody within seconds. The suspect was arrested for reckless endangering safety, aggravated battery, resisting an officer, and intentionally point a gun at a person.

On May 2nd, 2023, Officer Parker and K9 Drago participated in an operation to take into custody an infamous suspect involved with a group who were stealing vehicles, conducting armed robberies, selling drugs, and burglarizing homes along with other violent crimes. The suspect had been on the run for almost a year. As a result of an investigation conducted by a detective at the Fitchburg police department, police were able to track the suspect location using his phone. Officer Parker and K9 Drago were assigned to sit in an unmarked arrest vehicle referred to as a "Trojan horse" where the suspect was believed to be located. The suspect exited the apartment building after a long wait, but could not be immediately IDed based on the mask the suspect was wearing over his entire face. The suspect was able to leave in the vehicle and was later positively IDed. The vehicle was tailed until it came to a parking lot of a hotel. When enough resources were on scene, it was decided that we were going to attempt a high-risk contact with the suspect. Surveillance units then moved into place and attempted contact with the suspect. The vehicle immediately exit the parking stall and struck the vehicle of one of the contact officers, almost severely striking the Detective. The vehicle attempted to escape but got wedged in between a curb and another vehicle in the parking lot. The suspect then immediately fled on foot and the horse was deployed with Officer Parker and K9 Drago. K9 Drago was immediately able to apprehend and take the suspect to the ground but the suspect still attempted to get up and flee. Officer Parker immediately came up and decentralized the suspect to the ground and the suspect was taken into custody. The suspect had a loaded glock handgun with an extended magazine and fully automatic auto-sear switch in his waistband when the arrest occurred. The vehicle also had a large amount of narcotic drugs inside. The suspect was arrested on multiple Federal charges.

On May 6, 2023 Officer Parker and K9 Drago responded to assist Madison Police with an armed robbery. It was advised the suspect was potentially armed with a knife that was used during the armed robbery. Officer Parker and K9 Drago completed a track from the last known location of where the suspect was seen. The track started in a park and led towards a set of railroad tracks in a wooded area. The track then led in the direction of the railroad track where Officer Parker observed a suspect matching the exact description of the suspect. Officer Parker gave K9 warning to the suspect but the suspect attempted to flee into the woods. Officer Parker then directed K9 Drago to apprehend the suspect. K9

Drago successfully apprehended the suspect on the arm and was taken into custody without incident. The suspect was arrested for the armed robbery.

On May 30, 2023, Officers were investigating a retail theft from a local store in Fitchburg. During the investigation, the suspect vehicle was located and after conducting a criminal history, the driver had warrants reference a previous homicide case. A Fitchburg Sergeant attempted a traffic stop of the vehicle but one of the occupants fled on foot across a major highway and ran into a business district. While a perimeter was being set up, Officer Parker located the suspect with the assistance of a citizen attempting to high in the frame underneath a box truck. Officer Parker gave multiple K9 warnings to the suspect but he did not make a noise and maintained his position under the box truck. Based on the warrants and the fact the suspect was barricading himself under the box truck, Officer Parker sent K9 Drago to apprehend the suspect. K9 Drago successfully apprehended the suspect but the suspect maintained his position under the truck and refused to show his hands. Officer Parker grabbed the suspect by the foot and relocated the suspect away from the box truck where he was taken into custody without incident. The suspect had a felony warrant for his arrest including resisting/obstructing a police officer causing soft tissue injury, possession of cocaine, and drug paraphernalia, and retail theft. The incident led to a multi-jurisdictional felony retail investigation.

Officer Parker continues to be an advocate for Emma Loves Dogs and is constantly in the community interacting with kids and different programs such as the Latino Youth Academy.

For these reasons I would recommend PO Parker be nominated for K9 Handler of the year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Disch

Madison Police K9 Unit