



GLENDALÉ POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 UNIT  
5909 N. Milwaukee River Pkwy  
Glendale, Wisconsin 53209



### WLECHA – K-9 Handler of the Year (Nomination)

We would like to nominate Police Officer Aron Bechler for the 2021 WLECHA K-9 Handler of the Year Award.

PO Bechler and his K-9 partner, Brix, have been together for just about 2 years and have proved to be an incredible asset to not only our police department, but the entire north shore area of Milwaukee County. Just over 3 years ago, PO Bechler was struck by a stolen car while trying to deploy Stop Sticks. He suffered a serious knee injury that kept him off full duty for nearly 9 months. PO Bechler recovered and has shown a great amount of determination and perseverance to fight through the injury and come back to full duty. He trains with K-9 Brix on duty on a daily basis and does a great job keeping K-9 Brix trained and working at a very high level, all while being extremely active and being near the top in the whole department as far as self-initiated activity. Since last August, PO Bechler has seized 16 guns and has made 82 arrests. PO Bechler and K-9 Brix were able to attain NAPWDA certification in May on their first attempt, due in part to PO Bechler's extremely hard effort to make sure K-9 Brix was ready.

Since August of last year, PO Bechler has had over 50 deployments with K-9 Brix. K-9 Brix has been utilized over 30 times to attempt to locate suspects and/or lost subjects and has 20 apprehensions and 1 successful locate of a subject with dementia. While the overall number of deployments might not be as high as others, the circumstances of many of his deployments and apprehensions are noteworthy:

On Thursday, August 27, 2020, at approximately 4:38AM, Whitefish Bay Police Department requested K-9 Brix to try and track numerous individuals that had fled from a stolen car. PO Bechler and K-9 Brix arrived and began a track. K-9 Brix was able to track through several yards and alleys, eventually locating a total of 3 suspects. While the track was not long at all, being able to locate 3 different suspects in different locations demonstrated a very strong tracking ability.

On Thursday, January 7, 2021, at approximately 5:21AM, PO Bechler and K-9 Brix were called by the Wauwatosa Police Department to the area of 7300 W. Watson Av. in Wauwatosa to attempt to locate a suspect that was involved with an ATM theft. K-9 Brix began a track of the suspect after a pursuit and crash occurred and the suspect fled. K-9 Brix was able to track the suspect through several yards and over several fences, eventually locating the suspect in a back yard under a tree and under snow the suspect had placed on himself. The loss in the Wauwatosa ATM theft would have been over \$8,000. The suspect was wanted nationwide for the same type of crime and is possibly

linked to upwards of 800 ATM thefts since 2018. The ground was covered in snow and the temperature at the time of the track was 27 degrees.

On Wednesday, January 13, at approximately 1:51AM, Glendale squads were dispatched to a welfare check after the caller heard a male screaming possibly followed by 3 gunshots. While checking the area, a Glendale officer located a subject who then fled on foot east towards the Milwaukee River. A perimeter was set up and PO Bechler and K-9 Brix began a track. The track went east into the back yards. K-9 Brix then turned and began tracking northeast and took PO Bechler to a wooden deck in the back yard. K-9 Brix began to try and get under the deck where he located the suspect.

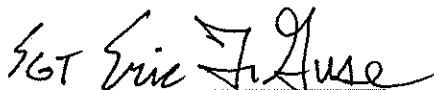
On Saturday, May 15, 2021, Glendale squads were dispatched to 4-5 subjects breaking into cars at an apartment complex. Mutual aid squads arrived as the suspects attempted to leave in a stolen vehicle. The suspects bailed out of the vehicle and fled on foot. A perimeter was set up and PO Bechler and K-9 Brix began a track. The track covered nearly a mile and covered numerous streets and alleys, as well as back yards. Throughout the track, K-9 Brix was also utilized to clear several open garages. PO Bechler and K-9 Brix located three subjects walking near Port Washington Rd. and ordered them to stop. The subjects fled again and K-9 Brix was released. K-9 Brix was able to apprehend one subject. Another perimeter was set up as the other two suspects ran across Interstate 43 and into a golf course. Prior to giving K-9 warnings via PA, a second suspect gave up and came out of the woods.

These are just 4 of the examples of how valuable K-9 Brix is to our community as well as surrounding communities.

Finally, PO Bechler and K-9 Brix have participated in several public relations' assignments ranging from meet and greets at the local pet store, to North Shore National Night Out, to making public appearances at City of Glendale events. PO Bechler demonstrates professionalism and a great work ethic through his K-9 duties and we believe he is a great candidate for WLECHA's K-9 Handler of the Year.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Lt. William Schieffer

  
Sgt. Eric Guse