



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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DANIEL P. THOMPSON

Chief of Police

WLECHA Board,

I am nominating Officer Dan Riess of the Waukesha Police Department as the 2024 Rookie Handler of the Year. Officer Riess and K9 Lambo has a resume that is short in duration, but accomplishments measure up to what many may not see in several years of handler service.

Officer Riess began his tenure with the unit, at the inception date of the Waukesha Police K9 Unit, March 2021. Officer Riess served as a decoy for 3+ years for the unit, dedicating his time and commitment to the unit and to the state as he attended WLECHA and other vendor competitions throughout those three years, as well as a decoy for the Waukesha County K9 Training Group, training three times per month. The knowledge he gained as a decoy and the dedication he put in to the success of the rest of the unit paid off when he was assigned as a Handler in May 2024.

Officer Riess is paired with K9 Lambo, a 21 month old Belgian Malinois. Trained and certified at Jessiffany Canine Services, K9 Lambo went into service in July 2024. Officer Riess and K9 Lambo work Late Power Shift, 5pm-3am, a shift which serves as the busiest for calls for service with a minimum staffing level of 12 officers and maximum of 18 officers during these hours. Officer Riess is assigned to general patrol, handling day to day calls within his squad area as any patrol officer, however paired with a canine partner.

Aside from handling his normal patrol duties, Officer Riess sought and succeeded with a new tracking method as soon as K9 Lambo became deployable. Since then, Officer Riess has logged 15 hours of his own time training K9 Lambo on this new method which has become a top strength of his.

Officer Riess and K9 Lambo have already completed 8 demonstrations to the public and logged 50+ training hours.

K9 Lambo, in only 19 working days since certification July, 2024, has responded to 26 requests for free air sniffs of vehicle, 23 of which were alerted to positively and reinforced by found contraband, a success rate of 88%.

K9 Lambo successfully tracked a burglary suspect in a stolen vehicle who fled at the conclusion of a pursuit in a populated residential area.

K9 Lambo has deployed on two Tactical Unit call-outs. One of these call outs involved a felony domestic violence suspect who barricaded himself in a garage with a machete for four hours. All negotiations and tactics to that point had failed to produce a successful resolution and K9 Lambo was deployed and successfully apprehended the suspect bringing the incident to an end with no persons needlessly or carelessly injured.



All of the above successes have occurred in less than two months time since graduation. Officer Dan Riess has shown that his hardwork, dedication and commitment as a rookie handler has already paid dividends. While the time on the road doesn't equate to most rookie handlers, Officer Riess and K9 Lambo's accomplishments far exceed most.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'NS' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Officer Nate Smidt/K9 Arko

Waukesha Police Department

Early Power Shift (10:45 am- 9:00 pm)