

## **West Windsor Police Department**

### **Officer Douglas Montgomery**

I would like to nominate Douglas Montgomery (21 year veteran) and K9Cherno and K9 Mackey of the West Windsor Police Department for the Why We Serve K9 Grant. Fortunately for me, I have an inside look at what it's like for Doug and the K9's every day. I get to see the commitment, discipline, and love that it requires to take on the responsibility, raise, and continuously train a working police dog. Doug has displayed these traits every day from the first time he brought K9 Cherno home to present. This job requires a dedication that most people can't grasp. Doug and his partner, K9 Cherno have created a bond that not even I can fully understand. They have served together for over 8 years and with the introduction of K9 Mackey, he is developing a new relationship to rival the other.

The West Windsor community and surrounding area has come to love and respect Doug and K9 Cherno and this has facilitated an incredible relationship between the West Windsor police department and the township. Doug and K9 Cherno (joined now by K9 Mackey) have become the center piece of almost every event in the area. They have become a staple in joining the community and the police department. I will attach a list of events (that will read like a resume) where they have been a driving force and ambassador, but I would like to bring your attention to a few very specific events that I believe show the dedication and heart of this K9 unit.

Operation Bark Drop is a fundraising and donation driven program that was developed with K9 Cherno in mind. Food, toys, beds, leashes, bowls, blankets, and basically anything dog and cat related is collected from individual donations at the police department and also from participating stores and organizations in the area and delivered to "no kill" shelters. K9 Cherno is the face of this drive and Doug is the voice. Together they visit businesses and reach out to organizations in the area to solicit donations for the cause. Last year, 3 full trailers of necessities were delivered and the donations continued to pour in. On a regular basis the department is commended for the professional yet incredibly approachable, friendly, and healthy attitude of Doug and his partner.

Visitations to the Senior / Assisted Living Center highlights the care and compassion that Doug and K9 Cherno demonstrate on behalf of the community. They are able to meet and share with the residence the incredible bond they have developed and bring smiles to all faces especially Doug's. He is a kind and compassionate representative in a time where it seems that every police officer is being depicted as a villain or bad apple. He has dedicated his life to being a first responder and has set a perfect example of "why we serve".

In talking with Doug about the use of any grant, he continually stressed the need for a K9 trained in Drug detection. West Windsor is a community between Trenton and NYC through which Route 1 runs. Route 1 is known to be used in drug running as an "off road" from the NJ turnpike to avoid detection from the NJ State Police. Acquiring a K9 for drug detection could essentially protect and save lives not only in West Windsor's jurisdiction but avoid trafficking into and from Trenton to NYC. That impact is unmeasurable.

Below are events where Doug and K9 Cherno are working for safety and/or developing a report with the community:

- Race for the Cure
- Ryan's Quest – Muscular Dystrophy Research
- Bark for Life – Cure for Cancer
- Carnegie 5K – Parkinson's Alliance
- People for Animals – Project to Spay/Neuter
- Megan's Place – A respite center and Summer Camp for children with developmental disabilities
- Marine Corps 5K Run
- National Night Out – Police - Community bonding

- Dare Youth Academy
- Wound Warrior 5K Run
- Farmers Market Safety Day
- Operation RAILS SAFE – Amtrak PD / TSA / NYPD
- Attitudes in Reverse – Suicide Prevention
- Special Olympics
- Boy / Girl Scouts – demonstrations
- Commencement Ceremonies - Princeton University, Rider University, MCCC
- Ft. Dix Airshow representative
- Your Pet Matters w/ Dr. T – Radio Show
- WPST – Dogs / Cats Rule – Pets and their People – Radio Show
- Regular visitor to all the schools within the township and annually to neighboring high school criminology classes.
- Dr. Seuss – Reading / Interaction with the students
- Operation Bark Drop – working with Wal-Mart, PetSmart, Petco, Dogs / Cats Rule

This list does not include daily calls for bomb detection in schools, businesses, buildings, parks, temples, Mosques, and train stations, but that happens too.

While K9 Chernobyl has met several well-known individuals including Bill Clinton, Rudy Giuliani, Joe Biden, his crowning moments were spent playing peek-a-boo with The Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama explained that he had the soul of a young child who wished to play and he indulged him.

Thank you for this consideration.

### **The Adventures of K9 Chernobyl and Mackey**



