




# North Port Police Department Media Release

"Providing for a safe community"

 @NorthPortPolice

 [www.facebook.com/NorthPortPD](http://www.facebook.com/NorthPortPD)

**Contact: Josh Taylor**  
Public Information Officer  
(941) 740-2815  
[jtaylor@cityofnorthport.com](mailto:jtaylor@cityofnorthport.com)

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Thank you for your interest in the North Port Police Department's K-9 Unit. We are dedicated to service and transparency, and have been happy to assist you over the past several months with the nearly 39 extensive research requests which necessitated more than 43 hours of records department staff time to compile. However, as you know, there are pending legal actions relating to the K-9 unit which prohibit us from discussing matters encompassed within your records request and investigation at this time.

Generally speaking though, we have reviewed all current legal authority and have found our K-9 handlers and the animals upon which we rely to keep our community safe, to have acted in accordance within the law and in keeping with best practices. As part of our accreditation process, City of North Port Police Department K-9 policies are continuously reviewed. In 2015 the NPPD received Excelsior Status for being accredited 15 years in a row. Only 17 police departments in the State of Florida have received such recognition.

Our animals and handlers go through extensive training both via the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Canine Team Certification and the United States Police Canine Association, depending on the specific use of the canine. Since 2012 our K-9 teams have received roughly two dozen awards and accolades from regional, state, and prestigious national organizations, demonstrating their competence and professionalism. We can provide a list of the accomplishments for your investigation if you would like.

K-9 usage by our Department is a result of the types of situations we encounter. North Port has a much different terrain and demographics than even our immediate neighbors. The tens of thousands of wooded lots are tempting to those who want to run from the law.

###

*A Florida Law Enforcement Accredited Agency.*