



****MEDIA RELEASE****

BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT



790 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake MN, 55309

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Canine Bruno to Transition to Officer Guy Chaffee

Over the past 2 months we have discussed the transition of our canine program from Captain Matt Hayen, to Officer Guy Chaffee. The program is transitioning because of Captain Hayen's new job duties, which significantly impact his time dedicated to training and canine work. We undertook a selection process internally for a new handler, Officer Guy Chaffee was selected to fill this role. Officer Chaffee is dedicated to proactive police work, and narcotic detection, he will be a natural fit for our canine program.



This has been a very difficult decision. In looking at this transition, our initial, collective decision was to retire Bruno and replace him with another canine. This option was desirable for several reasons including;



- We were able to obtain a grant that would pay for the new canine. This is the same grant used to acquire Bruno, no funds public or donated funds were expended for this portion of our program.
- Our desire to move to a canine that was not imprinted on marijuana, should the laws change legalizing it, we would have been ahead of the curve.
- The desire for a canine which had not been trained on apprehension, as we have now moved to a narcotic detection only program.

As we came closer to this transition date, Captain Hayen and I shifted our initial direction, and decided we wanted to do whatever was possible to keep Bruno working as the police canine he was trained for, as long as possible. Bruno is a mainstay of our department, and the community, and we wanted him to continue his service with us.

We began to work with our canine trainer, Performance Kennels, to facilitate this change. A week ago, Bruno was moved from the Hayen home, to the Chaffee home. He has been riding with, and

bonding with Officer Chaffee over the past week. This transition has been seamless! Officer Chaffee and Bruno will begin training with Performance Kennels May 28th, we anticipate 2-3 weeks of training, then they will begin their duties.

We look forward to having Officer Chaffee and Bruno at upcoming public events and watching them grow into one amazing canine team! Thank you so much for your generous support of our program, with this, we would not exist.