

K-9 COP MAGAZINE RECOGNIZES THE TOWN OF NEWBURGH POLICE K-9 UNIT



Shown from L-R: Officer Evan Longinott, Deputy Town Supervisor & Councilman Scott Manley, Town Supervisor Gil Piaquadio, and Officer Austin Joyce at the Town of Newburgh Town Hall.

The Town of Newburgh Police K-9 Unit was featured on the cover of the 76th Issue of the 2026 K-9 Cop Magazine for their outstanding work. K-9 handlers and their partners, Office Austin Joyce and Bandit, and Officer Evan Longinott and Ocho are committed to serving the community through law enforcement and community engagement, and their achievements are byproducts of their hard work. The Town of Newburgh Police K-9 Unit is honored to be recognized by the K-9 Cop Magazine, which is a trusted voice in the law enforcement and military K-9 community with a global reach.

Both Bandit and Ocho were named in memory of fallen members of the Town's Police Department. Bandit was named in memory of the late Town of Newburgh Deputy Chief Robert Desaye and as a tribute to the hockey team that he was a member of for years prior to his passing due to illness in 2022. Similarly, Ocho was named in memory of the late Town of Newburgh Police Officer Daniel "DJ" Romano who passed away from a tragic accident in 2022. Ocho is an ode to the number 8 that DJ Romano wore as a star football player for the Newburgh Goldbacks Football Team.

The Town of Newburgh K-9 Unit's dedication and drive to serve the community is admirable and noteworthy. Its' canines are being trained and certified in patrol and detection work. Bandit specializes in narcotics detection and Ocho specializes in explosive detection. The Officer and canine selection processes are extensive and the bonds formed between the officers and their canines are for a lifetime.

The Town's K-9 Unit participates in numerous community engagement activities including demonstrations at various locations such as the Town's Community Day event, local schools, childcare facilities, and hospice facilities. They also distributed about 1,500 signature K-9 baseball cards to children in the community, which features the K-9 Officers and their partners.

In 2025, the United States Canine Police Association (USPCA) issued Excellence Citations to Officer Joyce and his partner Bandit as well as Officer Longinott and his partner Ocho in recognition of their exceptional work in the field of law enforcement.

During last year's Region 7 Tracking Trials, K-9 Ocho and Officer Longinott took 2nd place and K-9 Bandit and Officer Joyce placed 3rd in the competition.

Town of Newburgh Supervisor Gil Piaquadio and the Town of Newburgh Town Board congratulates the Town of Newburgh Police K-9 Unit for their excellent work and remarkable achievement in law enforcement.