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Gurnee Police Department K9 Naming Contest

Gurnee – The Gurnee Police Department is preparing to welcome two new police canines to its agency in the coming weeks. A partnership with Gurnee Mills and Six Flags Great America allowed the department to continue the canine program after the previous two canines, Bear and Hunter, retired in 2021.

In anticipation of the new police canines, the Gurnee Police Department is requesting the assistance of Gurnee school students to help with selecting names. Gurnee students currently enrolled in kindergarten to 12th grade can participate in the K9 Naming Contest by submitting their name recommendations online through the Village of Gurnee website. The winning entries, selected by the Gurnee Police Department, will have the opportunity to meet the K9s at their official swearing-in ceremony. Submissions will be accepted from March 21 to March 31, 2022.

"We are grateful and excited for the opportunity to continue our K9 program with the addition of two new canines," said Chief Brian Smith. "Police canines play a critical role in serving our community and protecting the residents and visitors who enjoy year-round attractions like Gurnee Mills and Six Flags Great America. We are eager to hear from our local students who are helping us select the perfect names for our canines."

The new German Shepherds are currently undergoing training at TOPS located in Grayslake, IL. TOPS is a family-owned business since 1978 and has been training police canines at their facility for many years. Currently, there are upwards of 40 police canines on the street throughout Lake, Cook, McHenry, and Kenosha counties trained through TOPS. The canines and their handlers will initially undergo eight weeks of training, earn their certification, and receive continual follow-up training through TOPS for various patrol functions, including article and building searches, narcotics detection, and tracking capabilities.