



To: Members of the Common Council

From: Chief Tim Styka

Date: August 28, 2013

RE: Police K-9 Program

On August 7, 2013 our police K-9 Gommez was diagnosed with late stage cancer at the UW Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. He passed away from this illness on August 16, 2013 at the young age of 7.

Gommez came to the City after the successful fundraising campaign by the citizen volunteer group the Menasha K-9 Corp. Gommez quickly demonstrated his abilities in finding illegal drugs. In 2009, the first full year with the program, we saw an increase of over 100% in our drug related arrests. This had a major impact on drug related issues in the City, sending a clear message to those engaged in these activities. We did see a decrease in arrests the subsequent years, indicating that Gommez was having an impact. Gommez was responsible for well over \$125,000 in drug seizure money and over \$100,000 in the value of drugs he took off the street. Gommez was also very accurate in doing his job. He was accurate 96% of the time, well above the recognized standards.

While Gommez's focus was finding illegal drugs, he also provided an incredible way to reach out to the community. Gommez was a favorite at community appearances and fascinated people on how he was able to perform his job tasks. Since Gommez passed away we have received support and appreciation for his efforts from people all over the State.

It is clear that the K-9 Unit has made a positive impact on the community. As a result, community members have been asking what they can do to make sure Menasha continues to have a K-9 Unit. In the Police Commission meeting last week, the group unanimously approved a motion to start up the K-9 Corp again. The goal will be to raise \$20,000 for the purchase, training and upkeep of the program. In the group's last efforts they raised over \$48,000 in six months. We believe this new goal is very achievable and hope to return in the spring with a request that the City accept the funds raised so the program can continue.