



City of Bristol

NEWS RELEASE

Phone: 860.584.6250

Fax: 860.584.3835

Office of the Mayor
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **(Bristol, CT) May 10, 2018**

Bristol Police Department Raising Funds for a new K-9 Dog to aid Department Opioid Efforts

(BRISTOL, CT)- The Bristol Police Board recently voted to approve a volunteer effort spearheaded by local businessman, Philip S. Vonella to solicit donations for the Bristol Police Department's K-9 Fund. The charity, known as Operation Opioid, is aimed at curbing the epidemic in our community.

"With such an emphasis on the Opioid Public Health Crisis, we are happy to have another initiative to bolster our efforts locally," stated Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. "We currently have a Task Force of over 35 people from all different aspects of our community who have been touched by the crisis. If we have 2 more dogs trained to track and remove deadly drugs from the street, and thus the distribution networks, that is a win for everyone."

Vonella, a local resident, has embarked on the challenge to raise \$50,000 toward the cause. Funds collected will be used to purchase two German Shepherds, trained at the Connecticut State Police Academy, for Narcotics Detector Purposes. "I have chosen to fully dedicate myself to this initiative and am reaching out to all residents of Bristol to support this cause, said Vonella. Every donation, large or small is equally important. Together, we can make a difference."

"Our K-9 teams play a crucial role in our efforts to make the City of Bristol a safer place to live, work and visit. Whether it is searching for narcotics, apprehending suspects and/or conducting missing person's searches, our K-9's and their handlers require extensive training, supplies and veterinary care. This fundraising endeavor from the public helps make this a reality. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Phil Vonella for seeing this through," stated Bristol Police Chief Brian Gould.

Donations may be made payable to: Bristol Police Department K-9 Fund, c/o Operation Opioid, P.O. Box 113, Bristol, CT 06011-0113.

###