



PRESS RELEASE – April 18, 2023 – Chief of Police Dan Burch

Round Lake Park Police Department Welcomes New Police K9

Chief Daniel Burch and the members of the Round Lake Park Police Department are extremely pleased to welcome the newest Round Lake Park Officer, K9 Gunny. Gunny is a 10 month old AKC German Shepard that was graciously donated to the Round Lake Park Police Department by Ellis and Ellis Consultants, LLC through their “Project Safe and Secure” program.

Round Lake Park has had a long history of deploying police K9s starting in 1999 when, then Officer Burch, (now Chief Burch) was selected to be the department’s first K9 handler. Since, the department has had three other K9s with the last retiring in 2016. “We have been interested in obtaining another K9 to serve Round Lake Park, and when needed, the surrounding communities, for some time.



The biggest challenge initially has been finding an officer that was interested in becoming a handler to work with a police dog. It takes a huge amount of time and commitment on the part of a handler. We now have two highly qualified and experienced officers that are eager to work with Gunny that are currently going through a selection process.” Burch said.

Burch said, “Gunny will be evaluated by TOPS Kennels in Grayslake to help determine the best handler characteristics he needs to be the best possible K9. Once that has been done, TOPS will help the Round Lake Park Police Department select the best officer.”

Chief Burch first learned of the possibility of a K9 donation when he, along with all the other association members, received a notification from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police on February 16th that a purebred German Shepard K9 was available for donation. “We immediately expressed our interested in being considered for the donation as we had just started the process for getting a K9 this fall. The timing was perfect.” Burch said.

After waiting for nearly two months Chief Burch, along with six other Illinois law enforcement agencies, received notification from Ellis and Ellis Consultants saying they had three K9s they were donating to law enforcement agencies across Illinois. Chief Burch met with Mr. Ron Ellis and Dr. Sandra Ellis in Mount Pulaski, IL last week where he had the opportunity to meet the three beautiful K9s. “It was a tough decision, but ultimately we felt Gunny would be the best choice for Round Lake Park” Burch said.

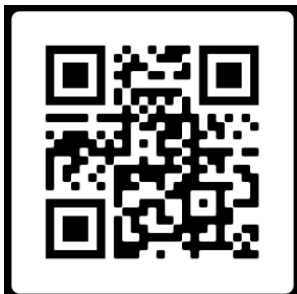
“Gunny is valued at \$15,000 which is a huge savings to the Village of Round Lake Park as we start our K9 program back up. We are grateful for to Ron and Sandra for their very generous donation. This is a wonderful example of public-private partnerships as part of an Illinois safe community initiative” Burch said.



Gunny will be attending training at TOPS Kennels starting in June. The first 8 weeks of his training will teach him the basics of being a police K9. Following the initial training, Gunny and his handler will complete the 400-hour state certification course. Gunny will initially be trained in tracking, area searches, and illicit narcotics detection.

In an effort to support the ongoing expenses of a police K9 program the Round Lake Park Police Department is applying for K9 specific grant funding and is also accepting monetary donations that will be used to cover the purchase of special K9 equipment, food, health care and training. Some generous monetary donations have already been received including from Dr. Koryn Swearingen and the Village Veterinary Clinic team in Grayslake who have committed to work with Round Lake Park in providing care for Gunny. Anyone interested in

donating to the K9 program can visit the Round Lake Park Police Department’s Facebook page or stop at the Round Lake Park Police Department, 215 E. Main Street, Round Lake Park, IL 60073, for more information. All donations are used to support the current and future Round Lake Park K9 programs.



RLPPD Facebook Page