



Auburn Police Department



FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

07/02/2013

APD WELCOMES NEW K9 OFFICER

Phillip L. Crowell
Chief of Police

Jason D. Moen
Deputy Chief

Rita P. Beaudry
Office Manager

July 2, 2013 – Auburn, Maine – Auburn Police Department's newest officer was sworn in during Monday evening's City Council meeting.

K9 "Rocky" and his handler, Patrol Officer Tyler Ham, took the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor, which was issued by Auburn's Mayor, Jonathan LaBonté.

"Rocky," a two year old German shepherd, is named in honor of Auburn Police Officer Rodney "Rocky" Bonney, who was killed in the line of duty on April 6, 1981. Officer Bonney's widow, Cherrie, got to meet her husband's namesake for the first time last night, and very proudly 'pinned' his badge during the ceremony.

During the ceremony, "Rocky" received a beautiful new ballistic vest courtesy of Wayne Robichaud and his family (of Oxford), who fundraise and donate vests to K9 officers across the state of Maine. The vest, complete with APD patches and the dog's name, will protect "Rocky" as he works the road with his handler. The Robichauds raise money for the K9 vests through their website, www.maineK9vests.com, and through donation cans placed in stores across Maine. They have made it their mission to ensure that every police K9 in the state receives a vest to protect them from harm. This labor of love, which began as a school project by their oldest daughter in 2009, has become a family affair thanks to the help of their two young sons.

"Rocky" and Officer Ham join K9 "Dutch" who has been working with his handler, Corporal Kris Bouchard since 2010. "Rocky" replaces "Inka," who retired in February of after six years of dedicated service with her handler Corporal Scott Corey. Ham and Rocky recently graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy K9 School, an intensive 10-week K9 training program.

"These dogs work incredibly hard," said Police Chief Phil Crowell. "They expand our law enforcement capabilities and they have a lot of heart. We are proud to have Rocky join our team. He is dedicated and very intelligent. With his namesake, he has some very big shoes to fill."

Photo captions:

- [Rocky13.jpg] *Cherrie Bonney, widow of fallen Officer Rodney "Rocky" Bonney, meets K9 Rocky for the first time.*
[Rocky5.jpg] *Officer Tyler Ham and K9 Rocky receive a K9 protective vest from the family of Wayne Robichaud.*
[Rocky7.jpg] *K9 Rocky gives Officer Tyler Ham some love while Cherrie Bonney and Ham's wife Kelly look on.*

Contact Information
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Rocky13.jpg



Rocky5.jpg



Rocky7.jpg