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## Village of Mount Prospect Police Department

911 E. Kensington Road, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056

November 20, 2021

For Immediate Release

Contact: Officer Greg Sill

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### **K9 Alex Retires from the Mount Prospect Police Department**

The Mount Prospect Police Department is announcing the retirement of K9 Alex, the police department's first ever K9. K9 Alex joined the police department in the spring of 2018 and was approaching his four year anniversary of service with the Village. While this retirement comes earlier than the five to seven years of service that is typically expected with a police department K9, we are appreciative of the service he provided. During the course of his career, K9 Alex has assisted in locating missing persons, locating offenders and helping to take illegal drugs off of the streets of Mount Prospect. K9 Alex will be living out his retirement with his handler, Officer Bryan Furr. K9 Alex will be missed around police headquarters, as he was often found encouraging staff members to throw his toy and play fetch.

On the evening of November 3, 2021, Officer Furr stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 500 block of Isabella Street. As Officer Furr exited his squad, he observed K9 Alex running towards a resident walking her dog on an adjacent sidewalk. Officer Furr was unable to catch up with K9 Alex before he bit the other dog in the rear leg. It was later found that the resident's dog had been bit in the abdomen as well. The resident's dog, while defending himself, also bit K9 Alex in the ear. The dogs were immediately separated by Officer Furr and the dog owner. The resident's dog was taken to a local animal hospital where he was treated for his wounds. He was held overnight and released the next day and is doing well. Obviously, the department has covered the cost of all of the resident's veterinarian expenses. Following this incident, K9 Alex and his police vehicle were taken out of service immediately.

The police department has investigated how K9 Alex was able to get out of the rear door kennel of the police vehicle. The rear passenger door is controlled by a remote control device carried



*With COURAGE we protect, with COMPASSION we serve.*

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by the K9 handler. This remote requires the release button to be depressed multiple times in a short timeframe to activate the door opener. The investigation revealed that that activity did not take place by Officer Furr. The release button is manufactured in a recessed fashion on the remote to avoid inadvertent release of the door by the K9 handler. The department has been in contact with the manufacturer of the kennel door system as to why the door may have inadvertently been released. To date, we have no definitive explanation why the system has developed a fault, as this door has never opened inadvertently before.

While we do not believe this played any role in the incident on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, K9 Alex underwent surgery to remove a benign tumor from his mouth at the end of September 2021, resulting in multiple teeth being removed.

Our hearts go out to the owner and her dog for what transpired during this incident. Thankfully, the dog has recovered and is doing well. Most members of this police department are dog owners and understand how much these canine companions mean to a family.

Ultimately, the decision was made to retire K9 Alex from service on November 8, 2021.

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