



WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
JEFF LONG, SHERIFF
408 CENTURY COURT
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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 14, 2015

NAOMI JUDD PARTNERS WITH WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MUCH-NEEDED EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOG



*SHERIFF REPORTS AREA
SCHOOLS EXPERIENCED 12 BOMB
THREATS OVER TWO-WEEK
PERIOD LAST YEAR*

Nashville, Tenn. – September 14, 2015 – Country music legend and American Humane Association Ambassador Naomi Judd is partnering with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office to raise awareness and donations needed to secure a patrol and explosive-detection dog for the local law enforcement team. The need for a bomb dog became apparent when, as Sheriff Jeff Long reports, Williamson County, home to more than 32,000 students, experienced 12 bomb threats at local schools over a two-week period in the 2014-15 calendar year.



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“Williamson County is rapidly growing,” said Sheriff Long. “It's time the county had a patrol and explosive-detection dog so that we are properly prepared for these kinds of threats or danger.”

The canine, training, and vehicle necessary for transporting potential explosives will cost an estimated \$70-100,000. Judd has personally contributed to the cause and recently tapped her personal network for donations. She urges area residents to join in this important safety effort, as well.

“As a resident of Williamson County, the safety of our county and my neighbors is a priority for me,” said Judd. “My work with AHA has exposed me to a variety of specially-trained canines, much like the one that is needed for Williamson County. I have seen, first-hand, how these dogs make a world of difference for security needs. It is my pleasure to partner with my good friend, Jeff Long, and the Williamson County Sheriff's Office to help raise funds and awareness for this urgent need.”

Led by Lieutenant Carl Smith, the effort to secure the bomb dog is already underway. After an extensive search for the appropriate dog, a 20-month old German Shepherd named “Onyx,” from Advance Canine in Scottsville, KY, has been selected for training. Having already passed the pre-tests necessary to advance in the selection process, “Onyx” will go through a rigorous 26-week training course covering obedience, criminal apprehension, handler protection, practical dog agility, area search, tactical building search, felony vehicle stops, scent discrimination trailing, and explosives detection.

Sheriff Long described “Onyx” as having a lot of drive and motivation to work hard, two characteristics essential for a dog in this position.

To make a donation, checks should be written and addressed to the Williamson County Law Enforcement Foundation in care of Ken Young. The address is 306 Public Square Franklin, TN 37064. All donations are tax deductible.