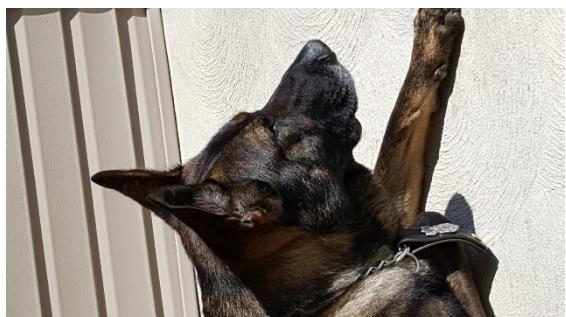
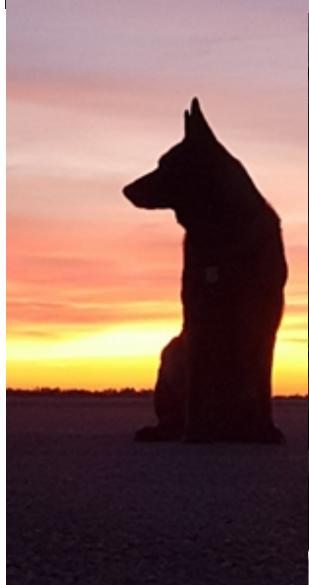
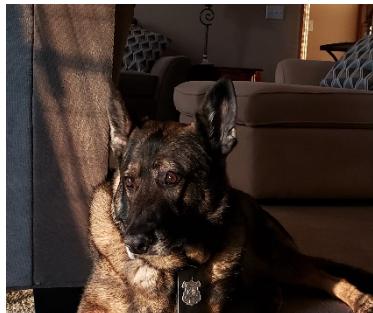


# GARFIELD HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## K-9 ARLO CAREER REVIEW



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### K-9 Arlo Career Brief

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AFTER THE RETIREMENT OF K-9 MAJOR, THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDED THREE NEW POLICE WORK DOGS THROUGH FUNDS DONATED TO THE K-9 UNIT. IN THE WINTER OF 2012, OFFICER MERCHANT ATTENDED THE K-9 ACADEMY AT VON DER HAUS GILL LOCATED IN WAPAKONETA, OHIO. OFFICER MERCHANT AND OFFICER HACE SELECTED TWO NEW WORKING DOG CANDIDATES, BOTH HAVING THE SAME NAME OF VETO. OFFICER MERCHANT RENAMED HIS NEW PARTNER ARLO (ADVANCED, RECONNAISSANCE, LOCATING, OFFICER). K-9 ARLO WAS BORN IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC ON JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2011. WHILE ATTENDING VON DER HAUS GILL ACADEMY WITH K-9 ARLO IN DECEMBER 2012, OFFICER MERCHANT RECEIVED NEWS THAT K-9 MAJOR WAS ILL. OFFICER MERCHANT LEFT THE ACADEMY CLASS ON THE DAY BEFORE GRADUATION AND RETURNED TO BE WITH K-9 MAJOR. TESTING REVEALED THAT K-9 MAJOR HAD A LARGE TUMOR THAT HAD RUPTURED AND HE WAS BLEEDING INTERNALLY. THE DECISION WAS MADE TO PUT MAJOR DOWN. OFFICER MERCHANT RETURNED THE NEXT DAY TO COMPLETE THE CERTIFICATION AND GRADUATED WITH K-9 ARLO WHILE HAVING A HEAVY HEART BECAUSE OF THE DEATH OF K-9 MAJOR. DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER THROUGH THEIR CAREER, OFFICER MERCHANT AND K-9 ARLO MAINTAIN THEIR CERTIFICATION WITH THE STATE OF OHIO AND WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL CANINE HANDLERS IN BOTH PATROL AND NARCOTICS. K-9 ARLO HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE GERMAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF NORTHEAST OHIO AND BIL-JACK DOG FOOD FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHILE ON DUTY, AND THE IMPACT THE K-9 TEAM HAS MADE IN TRACKING FOR THE YEARS OF 2012 UNTIL 2017 WHEN THE PROGRAM ENDED. OFFICER MERCHANT AND K-9 ARLO HAVE MAINTAINED RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WHICH HAS RESULTED IN NUMEROUS DONATIONS TO THE K-9 PROGRAM. FROM THESE DONATIONS IT HAS ALLOWED THE PURCHASE OF THE LAST FIVE POLICE WORKING DOGS AT NO COST TO THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS. THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE HIGHLIGHTS TAKEN FROM K-9 ARLO'S CAREER DURING THE YEARS 2012 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2022 WHEN K-9 ARLO RETIRED.

## **K-9 Arlo Career Highlights:**

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Officers were dispatched to 13509 Eastwood for a disturbance call. Officer B. Cramer arrived on scene and a male exited the house and fled into the back yards traveling north. Officers responded to assist as Officer Cramer determined what had transpired. Officers were advised that the male (the complainants ex) had forced his way through a locked side door by breaking out the window. The male then assaulted her and fled as Officers arrived. Officer Merchant arrived and was assisted by K-9 Arlo and attempted to track the male. Officer Cramer pointed out the last point of observation. K-9 Arlo started from 13505 Eastwood and quickly came across the males hat and glasses. The track continued to the north over a fence and into the backyard of 13504 Woodward. Arlo tracked down the driveway and up the driveway of 13505 Woodward. The track continued into the backyard and over a fence still traveling north. The track started down the driveway of 13504 Shadyoak, but quickly stopped because of a perimeter unit being parked at the end of the driveway. The track then turned eastbound and then turned back south in the yard of 13504 Shadyoak. K-9 Arlo tracked back behind the garage of 13509 Woodward. K-9 Arlo began to show a strong interest between the garages and was looking high. Officer Merchant checked the roof of the garage and then over a six foot fence. The male was observed attempting to conceal himself in the thick brush on the other side of the fence. The male was held at gun point until back up Officers could get to the male's location and take the male into custody without further incident.

Officers were dispatched to the area of Greenview and East 104, for a group of males carring items which the complainant felt were stolen. Officers arrived in the area and observed the males as they were walking towards the Metro parks. Officers approached the males in the Metro parks and as Officers drove up to them, the males dropped the items they were carring and fled into the woods. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo pursued. K-9 Arlo tracked the males through the woods and over to a large ravine. Officer Merchant observed the males climbing up the other side. The males were ordered to stop and return. Two out of the three males stopped and returned to Officer Merchant's location, after seeing and hearing K-9 Arlo. The males yelled back to not send the dog and they would comply. The males returned and were walked out of the woods with Officer Seawright. Officer Seawright spoke with the males and they stated that they had just taken the items from a garage located down the street from where Officers first observed them. The males pointed out the residence and Officers made contact with the resident. The resident identified the property as belonging to him and was stored in his garage. The resident wished to file a complaint against the males, and they were transported back to the Garfield Hts City Jail.

Officer Falzini attempted to stop a vehicle and the vehicle fled south bound on Turney Rd. The Pursuit was terminated, and units discontinued. Officers then received information that the vehicle had crashed on Turney Rd. and Hathaway. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo arrived on scene and attempted to track

the subjects. The complainant came to his window and stated that the males fled down Hathaway towards Valley view. K-9 Arlo began to track across Hathaway. Officer Merchant observed a male walking onto Turney and coming from the direction of the accident. Officer Merchant directed officers to the males location and this male was identified as being involved in the crash. Officer Merchant then began to check down Hathaway as the complainant advised. K-9 Arlo was unable to pick up a track on Hathaway. K-9 Arlo then began to check the area behind the mall between 6060 Turney Rd. K-9 Arlo began to air scent behind 6068 Turney Rd. Officers advised that this is the area that the male that they have in custody had just come from. Officer Merchant pulled K-9 Arlo back to Hathaway and continued to check. Officers then received information that a male is attempting to gain entry into 6060 Turney Rd. Officers began to set a perimeter around the area and Officers made contact with the male and ordered him from the back of the church located 6060 Turney Rd. . While walking back to their vehicle, K-9 Arlo began to show interest in a landscaping trailer located behind 6068 Turney Rd. . Officer Merchant observed that one of the males had crawled under the trailer and attempted to hide from Officers. Officers checked this area to see if the males attempted to hide weapons or other evidence under the trailer. No evidence was located in this location.

The Valley View Police Dept. called and requested mutual aid after a resident called, and stated that they had heard a "bang" type of noise coming from the CEI substation. Officer Baon, Merchant and K-9 Arlo responded and made their way through the thick brush/ woods that surround the substations boundary. This was done with out any lights or communication. Officers approached the fence of the substation and observed movement in side the fenced in area. Officers called for more cars and Officer Dodge responded to assist. No other Officers were available because all other Garfield Hts. Officers were on other calls. Officer Dodge was given direction to Officers location. Officers Merchant and Baon took a perimeter position around the substation while waiting for Officer Dodge to arrive. All three Officers then established a bigger perimeter and began to gather intel on how many people were there, and how they gained access to the substation. Officers were able to determine that there was two males and they appeared to be removing copper wiring. Officers discovered the point of entry on the north side of the fenced structure. Officers then made a plan to have Officer Dodge, Merchant and K-9 Arlo set up at the point of entry and then have Officer Baon make a noise or shine a light to have the males to flee towards Officer Merchant and Dodge. As Officers were setting up the males began to work they way towards Officers Merchant's location. The males approached the fence and Officer Merchant jumped up at the males and yelled at them to scare them as Officer Dodge made entry into the fenced in area. The males were startled and Officer Dodge approached . The males were warned if they ran they would get bit. The males were held at gun point until Officer Dodge could get into position and cover the males. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo then responded to Officer Dodge's location. Officer Baon supplied over watch until Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo could reach Officer Dodge and the males. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo covered the males as Officer Baon moved to Officer Merchant and Dodge's location. Officer Dodge then supplied overwatch until Officer Baon arrived. The males were secured and Officers Merchant, Dodge and K-9 Arlo then cleared the rest of the area for any other suspects. The search had negative results. It was later determined that the males were cutting out the grounding cables to the substation structure, which then presented a greater danger to the males and Officers/K-9 as they were inside the fenced in area. The males had caused thousands of dollars in damage to the structure. The males were walked out of the area and turned over to the Valley View Police Dept.

Officer Merchant was on patrol and was traveling on Garfield Blvd. While passing 8316 Garfield Blvd, Officer Merchant believed he observed two males in the back yard of this address. Officer Merchant continued as if he did not see the males and traveled around the block and returned to the address and passed again. Officer Merchant observed two males standing in front of a vehicle which was parked in the driveway. Officer Merchant observed one of the males act like he was going to run from the area after observing Officer Merchant. Officer Merchant passed the address and continued to the next street to turn around. Officer Merchant advised other officers via radio of his observations and requested officers to respond. As Officer Merchant entered back onto Garfield Blvd. Officer Merchant observed the two males running across Garfield Blvd towards East 85th st. Officer Merchant yelled at the males to stop as they cross through the parking lot of 8409 Garfield Blvd. The males continued to run north up East 85 th. Officer Merchant pulled near the slowest male who was later identified as being Mylan Coleman. Coleman was warned to stop or K-9 Arlo would be deployed. Coleman stopped and the second male fled up a driveway heading west. Officer Merchant took Coleman into custody. Coleman was checked for weapons and found to have mechanic type gloves in his pocket. Coleman was secured in the back of 3419. Officer Merchant then went to the area where he last believed he saw the male. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo began to check the area attempting to have K-9 Arlo locate the track. K-9 Arlo located the track in the driveway of 4734 East 85th. The track traveled west through the yard and then north to the neighboring yard. K-9 Arlo tracked then West into the back yard of 4709 Birchwood and then down the driveway. K-9 Arlo then tracked up the driveway of 4714 Birchwood. K-9 Arlo then tracked along the back side of this residence traveling south. K-9 Arlo then turned the corner to travel back East and located the second male who was hiding on the south side of the house. K-9 Arlo engaged the male, but was quickly called off. Officer Merchant was unaware the male was right around the corner in a possible ambush location. The male was taken into custody without further incident. Officer Merchant and Officer Berri Cramer responded back to the area where the two males were first observed (8316 Garfield Blvd). Officers located fresh tire tracks in the snow from a ATV heading up the driveway. Officer Merchant followed the footprints into the back yard and followed them to a white ATV which was parked behind the house. In running the VIN (JSAAL41A572106933) on the ATV it came back to a Benjamin Mallette out of East Canton Ohio. Officer Merchant observed that it appeared that the ignition wires had been rewired. The ATV was later determined to be stolen.

Officers were dispatched to the area of Granger Rd. and the CEI right away for males throwing boulders at passing vehicles below. As Officers were responding there was currently two victims stopped at Overdrive. Officers began to take up locations to cut off the subjects escape. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo responded to the area of the CEI right away. K-9 Arlo began to track the suspects. K-9 Arlo tracked to the area of the cliff and located three males which matched the description given by the victims. The Males were ordered over to the CEI right away and away from the cliff. Officer Merchant called for more cars to assist and transport the males back to the victims. The victim identified the males as being involved in the crime.

Officers received information that the Metro Park Rangers was in a pursuit of a vehicle on East 104 and Broadway and they requested our assistance. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo responded to the area as the pursuit traveled into Cleveland. Officer Merchant observed the vehicle cross Turney Rd. on Goodman west bound towards Warner Rd. Officer Merchant and Lt. Bailey turned onto Tioga and traveled west to catch up to the vehicle. Officer Merchant turned onto Warner Rd and observed the vehicle stop facing southbound. Officer Merchant pulled over and stopped as other Officers approached the vehicle. Officer Merchant observed a female driver attempting to move the vehicle and Officers attempting to gain entry and ordering the female driver to turn the vehicle off and open the door. Officer Merchant observed the female attempting to put the vehicle in gear. Officer Merchant fearing for Officers safety, struck the driver side window with a collapsible baton and broke the window. Officers attempted to grab the side of the vehicle to gain entry into the vehicle to prevent the driver from continuing the pursuit. Officer Merchant pulled K-9 Arlo out of the way as the vehicle pulled off. Officer Merchant began to run back to marked unit 3429 to continue the pursuit. Officer Merchant observed the vehicle almost strike Lt. Bailey as he exited his vehicle, causing Lt. Bailey to run out of the path of the vehicle as it drove over the sidewalk. Officer Merchant turned 3429 around in the roadway as other Officers approached Tioga where the vehicle had turned. Officer Merchant was advised via radio that the vehicle was parked and the driver had fled from the vehicle on foot. Officer Merchant began to back up on Warner Rd. when the driver was observed exiting a fence located on the north side of 4375 Warner Rd. Officer Merchant observed the female had metal item in her hand as she began to run northeast across the vacant lot. The female was warned at gunpoint that if she did not stop, K-9 Arlo would be deployed to stop her and she would be bit. The female continued to run and K-9 Arlo was called from the 3429 and sent to apprehend the female. Officer Merchant observed the female regripping the items in her hands. K-9 Arlo was deployed and he engaged the female as she crossed the yard. The female was knocked to the ground and K-9 Arlo was called off. Officer Merchant held the female at gunpoint until other Officers arrived to assist. Lt. Bailey came up and was able to take the female into custody without further incident. Officer located a set of keys to the vehicle and a knife on the ground under the female. Officer requested a rescue squad to treat the females injuries. The female was transported to Marymount Hospital for treatment. The female was released and transported back to the Garfield Hts city Jail.

Officers were dispatched to 4943 East 109 to assist the squad. Upon Officers arrival the female stated that there is a male hiding from the police in the attic and he has an active felony warrant. The female also claimed to have been assaulted by the male. Officer Merchant requested more units to establish a perimeter and had the warrant confirmed. Family members were removed or protected in place. Officer Merchant made announcements to the male advising that he was under arrest and warning that K-9 Arlo would be deployed if he did not respond. The male responded to the announcements and verbalized his presence. The male was ordered to show his hands as he came to the top of the stairs. The male complied and was ordered down the stairs where he was taken into custody without further incident.

Officers were dispatched to the area of 4615 East 131 apartments for two males attempting to steal a vehicle that was parked in the apartment lot out by East 131. Officers arrived on scene and observed two males that matched the description walking from the area of the vehicle. Officers pulled into the driveway and the males then fled on foot north on East 131 towards Alvin. Officer Merchant arrived on scene and quickly toured the area looking for the males. Officers began to establish a perimeter around the area. Officer Merchant confirmed the last known area of the males as they fled. Officer Merchant utilized K-9 Arlo to track the males. K-9 Arlo was deployed on East 131 and quickly located the track. The track traveled north across the front of Station 2 and then turned east across the front yards of Alvin. Officer Merchant could observe a wet footprint left behind by the males on the concrete. K-9 Arlo tracked east to 13208 Alvin. The track then turned into the back yard of that address and then back east through the back yard. The track continued into the back yard of 13216 Alvin. K-9 Arlo began to check the fence line between 13216 and 13220 Alvin. K-9 Arlo then traveled down the driveway of 13216 Alvin and onto the sidewalk on the south side of the street. K-9 Arlo tracked east to about 13418 Alvin and he then began to cross the street to the north side of the street. The track continued across the front yards of Alvin on the north side and then turned north in the yard of 13513 Alvin. K-9 Arlo then tracked north on the west side of East 136th. K-9 Arlo then entered the back yard of 13512 Saybrook. As K-9 Arlo tracked between 13512 and 13508 Saybrook, a male then began to run from the side of the house and flee north on East 136th. Officer Regovich was a perimeter Officer was parked at East 136th and Rexwood. Officer Merchant identified himself as a Police Officer and warned the male to stop, or K-9 Arlo would be deployed to stop him. The male hearing this warning stopped and complied. The male was ordered to the ground and began to ask "what is going on" and uttering "I did not do anything". Officer Regovich took the male into custody without incident. Officers checked the area for the second male but were unable to locate the male. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo were heading back towards East 131 on Alvin when K-9 Arlo gave a change in behavior and began to travel up the driveway of 13220 Alvin. K-9 Arlo began to show interest in the area where two vehicle were parked in the driveway next to the garage. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo began to check the area. K-9 Arlo traveled across the front of the garage and then turned around and came back towards the vehicles. K-9 Arlo traveled between the two vehicles and then dove under the SUV which was parked next to the fence. K-9 Arlo show a strong interest in going under the vehicle, but was unable to get under the vehicle because his leash had got caught under the rear tire of the other vehicle. Officer Merchant looked under the vehicle and observed the second male under the vehicle. The male quickly came out from under the vehicle and jumped up on the roof of the SUV which at that time, Officer Merchant thought this action was to avoid being bite by K-9 Arlo. Officer Merchant ordered the male to get down and show his hands as he began to travel from the passenger side to the driver side of the vehicle. The male crouched down on the roof as if he was complying and then jumped off the roof and over the six foot fence next to the vehicle and into the yard 13216 Alvin. Officer Merchant advised other units that the male was now running south through the apartments. Officer Merchant freed K-9 Arlo from under the tire and began to direct Officers to reestablish the perimeter. Officers stated that they could hear the male moving through the woods. Officer Merchant responded to the apartment complex to confirm the male had entered the woods and that Officers were not hearing a deer fleeing the area. K-9 Arlo tracked up to the fence and confirmed the male had entered the woods. Officer Regovich then advised that the male had just crossed over Forestdale traveling south. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo then responded over to this location. K-9 Arlo began to track the male into the back yards of Forestdale. Officers were repositioned again to maintain the perimeter. K-9 Arlo tracked south through the yards and across the front of 4765 East 131. The track led into the back parking lot and into the thick wooded area behind this property. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo checked the area but by this time K-9 Arlo was very tired and having

difficult time locating the odor. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo had also lost the back up Officer assisting us. The track was called for those two reasons.

Officers were dispatched to the area of Hathaway for two males walking back and forth and looking up driveways. Officers responded to the area and Det. Stroe and Biegacki located the males at Hathaway and Turney Rd. Det. Stroe and Biegacki exited their vehicle and identified themselves as police officers and one male then fled on foot. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo responded and began to track the male. K-9 Arlo began to track into the yard of 6079 Turney Rd. The track then turned south through the back yards over to 6091 Turney Rd. where K-9 Arlo tracked down the driveway to the front yards. K-9 Arlo lost the track and Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo continued to check the area to relocate the track. While checking the yard of 12805 Milo K-9 Arlo began to show interest in the area and began to work the area for the male. K-9 Arlo moved to the area of the homes located on Turney Rd.. K-9 Arlo traveled down the driveway of 6097 Turney Rd. K-9 Arlo traveled to the garage of this residence. K-9 Arlo began to display a change of behavior that the male was possibly in this area. Officer Merchant believing the male was in the closed garage called for more Police units to assist. K-9 Arlo then moved down the north wall of the garage where a barbecue grill was located. Officer Merchant began to visually inspect the area but did not observe the male. K-9 Arlo then traveled along the north wall of the garage and located the male hiding under the covered barbecue grill. K-9 Arlo engaged the male in the right leg and the male began to quickly exit his place of concealment. K-9 Arlo re-engaged the male as he exploded from under the cover of the grill. Officer Merchant fearing the male was attempting to flee and his personal safety pushed the male to the ground. Officer Merchant observed that the male did not have any weapons in his hands then called K-9 Arlo off the bite. The Male was held on the ground and told to stay there while Officer Merchant backed up and don't attempt to flee because he would be bit. The male complied and Officer Merchant took a step back and called for assistance. Again the male was advised that if he complied he would not be injured. The male was secured in handcuffs and taken into custody. The male was identified as being as Dashawn Barfield who was found to have active felony warrant through the Cuyahoga County Sheriffs office. Dashawn Barfield was transported back to the Garfield Hts City Jail where he was treated for minor injuries by the Garfield Hts. Fire dept. Squad 1.

Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo were requested to assist the Maple Hts Police Dept for a subject possibly inside a vacant home. Maple Hts. Officers advised that they discovered a rear window had been broken out and observed a mattress being moved inside the residence. In checking with neighbors they stated that the residence had been vacant for a long time. Maple officers forced the side door open. K-9 announcements were made into the residence with no response. K-9 Arlo was deployed into the residence. We checked downstairs first and K-9 Arlo showed interest in the basement area. K-9 Arlo then came upstairs and traveled to the second floor. K-9 Arlo began to show signs of interest in the northwest bedroom. K-9 Arlo then began to give a trained indication to the area of the bed that had been over turned. Officer Merchant called K-9 Arlo back to his location on the stairs. The subject was verbally confronted and advised show his hands. The male was ordered to show his hands and slowly exit his place of concealment. The male complied with the orders and he was ordered to exit the room and to lay on the ground. The male was taken into custody without further incident.

Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo were requested to assist Cleveland Police Dept in looking for a male that had just fled from a vehicle involved in an armed robbery. Cleveland Police officers gave chase and lost the subject in the area of the north side of Cranwood Dr. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo located the track as it entered the yard of 13306 Cranwood. K-9 Arlo tracked south into the back yard and then turned east. The track then turned into the woods located behind 13405 S.Parkway. K-9 Arlo tracked south into the yard of 13405 S.Parkway and then turned west across the driveway. K-9 Arlo then turned back north and located the Pink hoodie located concealed in the tall grass next to the fence between 13401 and 13405 S.Parkway. This hoodie was what Cleveland Officers described the male to be wearing as he was fleeing from Officers. K-9 Arlo then checked down the driveway and was unable to pick up the track. K-9 Arlo then returned to the area. Officers then observed an open man door on the garage of 13401 S.Parkway. Officers set a perimeter and covered on the open door. Officers then approached the garage and cleared it. K-9 Arlo was showing a strong interest in the garage of 13405 S.Parkway. K-9 Arlo was sniffing under the closed garage door and wanting to enter the garage. Officers spoke with the residents of 13405 S.Parkway and they stated that know one should be, or has been inside the garage. Officers opened the door and located the male attempting to hide behind a stack of tires located in the middle of the garage. The male was ordered out of the garage and was taken into custody. K-9 Arlo checked the area looking for the gun that was used in the robbery and had negative results. K-9Arlo did locate a phone also in the thick underbrush next to the fence.

Officers were dispatched to East 131 and Thornhurst for approximately 4 males walking with handguns on their hips. Officers arrived in the area and Lt. Bailey observed males running across the street over to Sevice court. Officers established a perimeter around the area. Officers could see the males running through the back yards of Service court. Officer Merchant observed a male wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans running and holding his right side as he was running further confirming that the males were armed. Officer Merchant ordered the male to stop, but he continued to run and now turned back into the back yards. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo moved to the area of the backyards. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo entered the back yards and observed the male in the grey shirt now running south towards the park. Officer Merchant yelled at the male to stop, or K-9 Arlo would be deployed to stop him. The male fell as he tried to stop and surrender. The male was ordered to the ground and Officer Merchant requested another Officer to assist. Officer Merchant then noticed a second male moving towards Officer Merchants location. The male was ordered to walk to Officer Merchants location while displaying his hands. The second male complied and was ordered to the ground next to the other male. Officers responded to Officer Merchants location and the two males were secured. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo checked the area for other males involved which had negitive results. Officer Merchant deployed K-9 Arlo to search for articles. K-9 Arlo began to check the area and behind the vacant lot (just east of 12701 Service ct.) in the woods, K-9 Arlo began to show a trained indication to a downed tree. K-9 Arlo was placing his head into the tree opening and giving final response to the tree. Officer Merchant looked inside the tree and discovered a handgun with a extra mag hidden inside the tree. Officer Merchant notified Lt. Bailey of the discovery. Lt. Bailey responded and photographed the gun and collected it. Officer Merchant and K-9 Arlo continued to check the area and had negitive results.

Officers were dispatched to 13512 Thornhurst for three subjects inside a vacant home. Upon Officers arrival, Officers could hear noise coming from inside the home. Officers then observed males attempting to jump out second story windows. Officer yelled to the males to surrender and to come to the side door. Officers could hear the males running around inside and Officers established a perimeter around the residence. One male came to the second floor window located on the front of the residence and began to open the window. The males were warned that if the jumped they would be bit by K-9 Arlo. The males were ordered again to the side door. The male stated " Ok man, just don't let the dog bite me". Two males then came to the side door of the residence. The males were ordered to exit the building and to go to the ground upon their exiting the home. Both males complied as K-9 Arlo was on guard. The complainant stated, along with the two males that there is a third male inside the residence. Officer Merchant made K-9 announcements into the residence with no response to the first two announcements. On the third and final announcement a male voice was heard from deep inside the home. The male was ordered to come to the side door. Officers maintained the perimeter while the male came to the side door. The male was ordered to move slowly and to display his hand to Officers as he appeared in the door way. The male complied with Officer Merchant orders and was taken into custody with out incident.

Officers were monitoring radio traffic from Valley View Police Dept of an active vehicle pursuit. Officers from Valley View and Newburgh Hts. chased the vehicle to the area of East 65th Broadway. The driver rammed a fence and then fled on foot. Officers were in active foot pursuit of the male, but lost him. Officer Merchant and Officer Gall were granted permission to assist. Officer Merchant arrived on Baxter where the male was last seen. Pursuing Officers indentified 6710 Baxter as being the last known location the male was last seen. Officer Merchant deployed K-9 Arlo at 6710 Baxter and he picked up the track. K-9 Arlo checked the back yard of 6710 Baxter and then traveled to the south west corner of the yard. K-9 Arlo then quickly traveled through a small opening in the lower part of a shadowbox fence which Officers were unable to enter. K-9 Arlo began to pull very hard and display a strong change in behavior. Officer Merchant was unable to go through the fence and advised his back up Officer to go around to the other side of the fence. K-9 Arlo began to bark towards the south west corner of an empty lot located next to 6711 Forman. Other Officers assisting in the search located the male lying next to the fence where K-9 Arlo was indicating. The male was taken into custody.

Officers were dispatched to 12812 McCracken for a domestic violence complaint. Officer Merchant arrived on scene and spoke with the female complainant who stated that her 11 yr old daughter and she had been struck by her husband. The complainant stated that the male had left on foot and was walking down McCracken w/b. The complainant pointed out a male that was walking on McCracken between Claremont and Henry. Officer Merchant then observed the male look back towards the scene and after seeing Officer Merchant began to flee the area on foot. Officer Merchant observed obvious signs of injury to the 11 yr olds lip. Officer Merchant advised other Officers of his observation and requested a perimeter to be established. Officer Merchant responded to the area and attempted to put pressure on the male to keep him in the area until other units arrived. Officer Merchant directed other Officers into position. Once Officers were in position, Officer Merchant and Officer Falzini responded to the area where the male was last seen and with K-9 Arlo and attempted to locate the track. K-9 Arlo picked up the track in the driveway of Henry/McCracken plaza and traveled through the open gate on the east side of the building. The track traveled along the building and then turned south over a 6ft fence. The track continued east through the back yards over to 5048 Claremont and then crossed the street over to 5049 Claremont. The track continued through the back yards and over to the back yard of 12619 McCracken. The tracks turned south down the driveway of 12619 McCracken. The track crossed the street and up the driveway of 12614 McCracken. The track continued into the back yard of 12614 McCracken and then turned east to the garage of 12618 McCracken. K-9 Arlo began to display a change of behavior that he had located the male. K-9 Arlo then turned and traveled towards the house (12618 McCracken). Officers then located the male sitting on the porch attempting to hide from officers. The male at gun point was ordered to show his hands and to lie on the ground. The male complied to Officers orders and was taken into custody without further incident

Officer Marks attempted to stop a vehicle, but it fled. The vehicle crashed at Caine and East 143. The vehicle ended coming to a stop at Caine and East 142. Officer Merchant assisted by K-9 Arlo attempted to track the driver of the vehicle. K-9 Arlo was able to locate the track and it was confirmed as it traveled into the back yards between East 142 and 143. A little while later Officer Monnolly, who was set as perimeter Officer, observed a male approximately 3 houses to the south of Officer Merchants location. Officer Fogle checked the area, and observed the male fleeing south, then east from East 143. Officers shifted the perimeter to East 139. Officer Menary observed the male coming out of the back yards of East 139. Officer Menary stated that he observed the male turn back east. K-9 Arlo continued to track west bound and into the front yards of North Dr. on the north side of the street. K-9 Arlo turned north into the back yards. Officer Merchant followed K-9 Arlo into the back yards where he observed approximately 3 yards ahead of them the male as he was entering the back yards of Beechwood. Officer Merchant remained in the backyard to observed the males direction of travel and direct officers. Officers closed in on the location where the male was last seen. K-9 Arlo lead Officers over to the rear door of a vehicle which was running in the driveway of 13706 Beechwood. Lt. Bailey looked into the vehicle where K-9 Arlo was showing interest and observed the male laying across the back seat of the running vehicle. The male was taken into custody with out further incident.

Officers were dispatched to 12800 Christine for a burglary that had just occurred. Officers received information that the males had just fled on Rexwood. Officer Menary observed males matching description of the males at a residence on East 126. Officer Menary stopped the males and secured them. Officer Menary was able to recover property that was taken from the Burglary after a search was conducted at residence of the detained suspects home. Other property was still missing. Officer Merchant and K9 Arlo were requested to conduct a track to confirm or support this suspect was involved in the burglary. K9 Arlo tracked from the victims home through the back yards over to Rexwood. The track turned east across the front yards and over to East 126th and to the home of the suspect. Officer Merchant and K9 Arlo then worked their way back to check for the stolen items. While traveling across the front yard of 12719 Rexwood, K9 Arlo began to display a change of behavior. K9 Arlo then traveled towards the rear of the property and attempted to travel between the fence and garage. Officer Merchant checked the area and located the two missing TVs which were concealed between the fence and the garage and were covered by a blanket.

Officers were dispatched for a female that had been assaulted by her boyfriend. While officers were responding to the call, the female appeared to be fearful of the male and per the dispatcher the victim was whispering into the phone as if she was hiding from the male. Lt. Bailey arrived on scene first and observed the male fleeing south into the back yards of the apartment complex. Sgt. Merchant directed officers to establish a perimeter of the area and called the Metroparks to assist with the perimeter. Sgt. Merchant then retrieved K-9 Arlo from my vehicle and hooked up with Lt. Bailey. Lt Bailey pointed out the last known location and K-9 Arlo located the track. The track began to travel south/west through the back yards and then turned south through the woods. The track continued into the back of Sherwin Williams property and then back into the woods. The track traveled towards Park drive and up to the wood line. It appeared that the male had began to circle the area to find a route to escape. Officer Cwiklinski confirmed that the male was wanted for domestic violence and also had Felony warrants for drug trafficking. K-9 Arlo began to track south again through the woods. As K-9 Arlo and Officers began to approach a hill the male was observed running across the top of it. The male was ordered to stop, but he continued to flee. The males path was heading right towards a perimeter officer and the officer was advised via radio that the male was running towards him. K-9 Arlo was deployed to stop the male and began to pursue him from a great distance. Knowing that K-9 Arlo was pursuing and seeing that he was running right at a perimeter officer, the male surrendered by placing his hands over his head and walking towards the perimeter officer. Sgt Merchant called K-9 Arlo out from a distance and had him return. The male was taken into custody without further incident.

The Bedford Hts Police Dept requested K-9 Arlo to assist in looking for a gun that was thrown into a steep wooded ravine after assaulting a female. K-9 Arlo was deployed into the ravine. K-9 Arlo gave a trained indication of the article. Officers responded to the location to locate a small Taurus .25 cal handgun silver in color. (DZB45308). The weapon was recovered by Bedford Hts Officers.

Lt. Bailey was checking the old Walmart when he located a male stealing wire from the building. The male then fled out the back door of the building. I responded to assist and took a position on the back side of the store. When more units got into the area, I utilized K-9 Arlo to attempt to track the male. K-9 Arlo picked up the scent of the male on the back of the building. The track led to the west and began to travel down the hill. At approximately half way down the hill, I observed the male laying on his stomach. I then stopped and called the male out to show his hands or he would get bit. The male complied and was ordered to walk up the hill towards me. The male was taken into custody with out incident.

Officers were dispatched to 6437 Kimberly for a MVA which the female driver had fled from the scene after gathering all of her items from the vehicle. Upon arriving on the scene, Sgt Merchant observed that the airbags had been deployed in the vehicle and there was some blood located on the air bag. Officers spoke with a witness who stated that they observed the female flee w/b down Kimberly then make a left turn into the yards. Sgt Merchant then utilized K-9 Arlo to track the female for the traffic offenses along with being concerned for the females well being. K-9 Arlo began to track w/b on the south side of Kimberly on the sidewalk. The track turned into the yard of 6461 Kimberly. The track went over the fence and into the backyard of 6460 Brookhill. The track turned s/b and over to the front yard of this address and then turned e/b across the front yard of 6460 Brookhill. The track continued over to the sidewalk and now was traveling e/b on the north side of the street. K-9 Arlo tracked to the area of Turney Rd and Brookhill where he began to show a strong interest in the area. K-9 Arlo tracked into the landscaping of the 6382 Brookhill and then began to travel onto Turney Rd. Sgt Merchant then observed the suspect sitting behind a tree in the side yard of 6249 Turney Rd. This female had cuts on her hands and injury to her chest. The female was placed under arrest and transported back to the scene where she was identified as being the driver by witnesses. The female was transported to Marymount hospital and later transported to Metro Hospital because of her injuries.

Officers were dispatched to the area of Turney and Antenucci for a vehicle involved in an armed robbery from an AT&T store. The stolen items were being tracked, giving officers the location of the vehicle involved. The vehicle was located at 9707 McCracken and when officers approached, the two males fled on foot. The vehicle then fled the area leave the two males behind. Officers began to chase the males but had lost sight of them during the foot pursuit. Lt. Merchant responded to the last known location of the suspects on McCracken. Lt. Merchant had K9 Arlo check the front yards for the track and K9 Arlo located it as it went up the driveway of 9710 McCracken. The track went into the back yard and then turned west bound through the back yards of McCracken. The track lead over to the back yard of 9709 S.Highland. As K9 Arlo tracked through yard and began to enter the driveway area, he gave a head snap and began to show a strong interest in the area between the driveway and the back porch of this residence. K9 Arlo displayed body language that the male(s) were in the area. Lt. Merchant checked the trash cans located next to the house and located one of the males sitting in the large trash can. The male was ordered at gun point to display his hands and to stand up. Officer then knocked the trash can over to be able to better control the suspect and observe the males hands which were concealed inside the trash can. Lt. Merchant radioed for assistance and advised that we had one male at gunpoint. Officer B. Cramer arrived on scene and the male was taken into custody without further incident. The second male was located in the recycling can next to the first male. This male was also advised to show his hands. This male was knocked over while still inside the can to expose the male and allow officers to take him into custody.

Lt Merchant and K-9 Arlo responded to the area of N. Industrial in Maple Hts. after a bank robbery had just occurred and the suspect vehicle had crashed at Shadyoak and East 139. The passenger was taken into custody after a short foot pursuit and the drive had fled east. I got to the area and advised officers to establish a perimeter. The bank security was providing information on the trackers location which was with the money. I linked up with Officer Kovesdi as my back up officer to search the area with K-9 Arlo. K-9 Arlo began to pull me towards the west and we checked two dumpsters. He then began to pull me to the north when officers advised that the male had been located in the dumpster just to our north. K-9 Arlo began to show interest to an area next to a guardrail and in the snow. In checking this area of interest, Lt. Merchant located a handgun in the south side of the 14150 N Industrial Ave. parking lot by a guard rail where the suspects footprints could be observed.

Lt. Merchant and K-9 Arlo were requested to assist the Maple Hts Police Department in looking for a male who fled from the area of East 141 from a vehicle who was involved in a shooting. The male fled into Garfield Hts. Officers from Garfield Hts. located the male at Thraves and E130th. The male was returned to the scene and identified as being involved. Shell casings were located at the scene. Lt Merchant and K-9 Arlo began to check the very large area between the scene and where the male was located. While checking the area, K-9 began to show interest in the area of 13511 Thraves. K-9 Arlo traveled into the back yard of this property and showed a strong interest in a book bag located on the porch of this address. Officers located live ammo inside the bag and believed it is property of the suspect that was detained.

Officers were dispatched to Marymount Hospital for a Robbery that had just occurred. Lt. Merchant was supplied a photo of the male involved in the robbery. Lt. Merchant was given the last point the male was seen. Lt. Merchant went to this location with K-9 Arlo and attempted to locate the track. K-9 Arlo began to track across the southeast parking lot. K-9 Arlo tracked across E 126th st. and then began to travel south on the east side of East 126. The track turned into the the Tinker Creek apartments to the area of 5267 East 126. K-9 Arlo checked the area but was unable to relocate the track. While in this area Lt. Merchant noticed a camera pointing in the area where the track was lost. Lt. Merchant asked Ptl. Cwiklinski to check with the management office if they know the male in the photo and could play back the video covering the last know location. Lt. Merchant then returned to Marymount Hospital and reviewed the surveillance video of the southeast parking lot. In this video Lt. Merchant could see that K-9 Arlo tracked the male to the correct location. Lt. Merchant then received a call via radio from Ptl. Cwiklinski, that the video shows the male rounding the corner as did K-9 Arlo, but he continued across the south side of the north building. Lt. Merchant then returned to the last know location and attempted to relocate the track. K-9 Arlo tracked north on the east side of the north building and then turned west across the north side of the building. As K-9 Arlo tracked towards the west, Lt. Merchant observed the rear door of 5267 East 126 open and the suspect stick his head out the door and quickly duck back into the building. Lt. Merchant then advised Sgt. Smith of this observation and that the male just fled back into the building. Sgt. Smith and Ptl. Cwiklinski then ran around the corner in attempts to cut off the male. Lt. Merchant then entered the building through the rear door. Lt. Merchant began to

slowly check the area attempting to avoid being ambushed. Lt. Merchant worked my way to the front door and let Sgt. Smith and Ptl. Cwiklinski into the building. K-9 Arlo was asked to search for the male and he worked his way through the building and up to the second floor. K-9 Arlo focused his attention to door 204. Lt. Merchant then placed K-9 Arlo into my patrol vehicle and returned to the building. Officers had made contact with a Nicole Wilson who was shown the a picture of the male involved in the robbery. Wilson stated that she did not know the male. Officers made contact with other residents who stated that the male in the photo lives on the second floor. Officers asked dispatch to work on locating information on a male that lives in building 5267 East 126th and they returned with a male named Jamie Wilson in apartment 204. Jamie's BMV photo matched and the surveillance photo. Officers attempted to call back Nicole Wilson and have her come down to the lobby area. Officers could see movement in the apartment from under the door but was unable to identify who was in the apartment. Lt. Merchant spoke to Sgt. Rossi about obtaining a search warrant for the apartment. Lt. Merchant was informed that the detective bureau would be working obtaining a search warrant as officers held on the apartment. Some time later Nicole Wilson came down stairs and spoke with officers. Officers spoke with Wilson who later identified the male in the photo as being her son Jamie, and told officers that Jamie was not currently in the apartment. Lt. Merchant went and spoke with management to review the video again. Lt. Merchant then learned that Jamie Wilson had fled out the front door of the apartment building after Lt. Merchant observed him exiting the back door. A search warrant was obtained and executed on the address. Items were located in the bedroom which matched clothing which was worn during the commission of the robbery. All evidence was photographed and collected by members of the detective bureau.

Lt Merchant heard the call for service and responded to the area to assist after Officers determined that a male in connection with this call had active felony warrants and is wanted by the Adult Parole Authority for escape. Officers on scene stated that the male had just fled the residence on foot. Lt. Merchant responded to the area of the Metro parks and was advised that the male had fled the area and was possibly going north into the Metroparks. Officers on scene provided that the male was seen wearing a blue shirt and black jeans. While checking the park I observed a male running which was running through the woods but was wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and grey running pants. The male was then observed running into the creek and crossed to the other side. Lt. Merchant his vehicle and confronted the male with K-9 Arlo. The male started to comply then turned and ran. Because the male clothing did not match the one provided by officers on scene so Lt. Merchant did not deploy K-9 Arlo to apprehend him. Lt. Merchant provided the direction of travel and directed officers to respond to Center St. area to cut the male off. Lt. Merchant pulled his unit around through the Metro parks and back on to the running path. Lt. Merchant began to track the male into the woods and over to Marguerite Ave. Witnesses stated that they observed the male crossing Henry St. Lt. Merchant then responded over to Henry St. and continued to track the male into the woods across from the apartments. The track went through the woods and over to Chaincraft. Lt. Merchant tracked the male over to the train tracks and directed officers to respond to the area of the service garage. Members of the service garage then called and stated that they obseve the male and one service member began to chase the male. The male entered the creek again and began to travel into Maple Hts. Lt. Merchant was picked up by patrol officer and they responded via car to the area of Remington college. Lt. Merchant

observed the male we were pursuing walking down the sidewalk in front of the college. Numerous officers approached the male and he was taken into custody without further incident.

## Closing



As demonstrated here on the previous pages, K-9 Arlo has made a large impact to the community which we proudly have served. He has not only impacted The City of Garfield Heights, but numerous agencies across northeast Ohio and beyond. The photo that is shown here is from the day of his swearing in ceremony. It was taken by a member of Channel 5 News. This photo was posted and went viral across the internet. It has been made into numerous memes and still can be located when you Google "Police Dog swearing in" and now other agencies have followed our lead when swearing in a new K-9.



After the owner of a nonprofit organization called Vested interest in K-9 saw this picture, the owner called and offered bullet proof vests for all three of The City of Garfield Heights police dogs. I have shared this information with other K-9 handlers in northeast Ohio and later with Agencies like Toledo, Akron Canton, Allen County Sheriff's office and many more. All these agencies have received bullet proof vests from Vested Interest in K-9 through the connection that was made by K-9 Arlo's photo.



This photo later was used as a book cover and throughout the book called K-9s In The Courtroom. This book was written by a group of K-9 handlers from California and is still available today through numerous vendors. It is recommended reading for new handlers getting into the field to prepare them for what they will encounter when testifying in a court with their K-9 partner.

## Note

For Deputy Chief Merchant, this completes 23 years as a K-9 officer with three different dogs (Reno, Major and Arlo) for The City of Garfield Heights and has achieved the title of Master Trainer with the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers. This also hits a

milestone for Deputy Chief Merchant being a K-9 handler 100 years after his grandfather, James Cobb who was the first Police Officer in the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake and a K-9 handler from 1920-1924 with his K-9 partner Chief.