



MEDIA RELEASE

GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Kevin Phillips
Chief of Police

Gainesville Police Department's K9 Unit Receives National Certification of Excellence

Gainesville, TX – 07 June 2024 – The Gainesville Police Department is proud to announce that Officer Johnny Freeman and his K9 partner, Coba, received a National Certification of Excellence from the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) at a national conference held earlier this month in Wichita Falls, TX.

The prestigious recognition is awarded to K9 teams that demonstrate superior skills and teamwork in various scenarios. Competing against elite K9 units from across the nation, Officer Freeman and Coba were tested in three rooms and five cars to earn their Narcotics Detection Certification, including odor tests for various illegal drugs. For their regional certification, Officer Freeman and Coba achieved the highest score for Region 25.

“Coba’s ability to detect the odor of illegal narcotics is a valuable asset to the department,” said Officer Freeman. “This recognition is a tremendous honor for us and reflects the countless hours of training and the strong bond we share. It’s a privilege to serve the Gainesville community, and we are committed to continuing our work to keep our city safe.”

“We are incredibly proud of Officer Freeman and Coba for their dedication and hard work,” said Chief Kevin Phillips of the Gainesville Police Department. “Their achievement is a testament to the rigorous training and commitment required to excel in such a demanding field. This honor not only highlights their exceptional skills but also brings pride to our entire department and community.”

The USPCA, established to promote and improve the training and performance of police dogs, sets high standards for certification. This recognition underscores the exemplary capabilities of Gainesville’s K9 unit in areas such as obedience and detection.

Officer Freeman and Coba’s success at the conference reflects their unwavering dedication to public safety and their role in maintaining peace and safety within the Gainesville community. Their performance showcases Gainesville Police Department’s commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in law enforcement practices.

For more information or to report a concern, please contact the Gainesville Police Department at 940-668-7777 or visit our website at Gainesville.tx.us/114/Police.

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