

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO**

# City of Alamogordo

## APD K9 Brutus

**Alamogordo, NM Friday, February 8, 2019** On December 7, 2016 the Alamogordo Police Department's K9 program was formed with the help of Special Forces Bravo K9 (SFB). SFB provided the City with its first working dog, K9 Brutus (aka K9 Clint). This program was formed in honor and memory of Alamogordo fallen officer Clint Corvinus, who's dream was for APD to have a specialized K9 unit. To honor his memory and to ensure the program would endure and be a success, the City of Alamogordo contracted with a company with over 37 years of full time K9 training at both the state and federal levels. In addition to this specialized regular training with APD's K9 teams, APD requires a rigorous training program on its own that includes daily training between the Officer and the K9. APD continues today to work with this company, and all of APD's dogs and handlers are currently certified Police K9 teams.

On February 5, 2019, SFB contacted APD and expressed concerns that APD had violated its initial agreement with them and wished for APD to return K-9 Brutus. SFB did not provide specific violations, however, did provide some generalized information as to how they believe APD was in violation of the contract. APD regrets any unintentional breach on its part, but strongly rebuffs any claims of mistreatment of any of its K9s.

On February 7, 2019 APD Chief Brian Peete made the decision to relinquish K9 Brutus to SFB after City management consulted with City Manager Maggie Paluch whereby she empowered Chief Peete to make the best decision for his department. Although the decision to relinquish was made, APD strongly denies any claims of mistreatment, but wishes to cooperate with an organization with such a worthy mission. APD has been coordinating with SFB through representatives of their choice to facilitate the return of K9 Brutus, and at approximately 8:30 am on February 8, 2019 Alamogordo Chief of Police Brian Peete, relinquished K9 Brutus to SFB.

APD and the City of Alamogordo take the allegations of SFB seriously and are in the process of consulting with the New Mexico State Police and the Attorney General regarding this matter. APD remains strongly committed to a thriving K9 program in honor of Clint Corvinus and will continue to train and develop its two additional working K9's to ensure the safety of our community. APD and the City of Alamogordo will provide additional information as it becomes available.

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