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MEDIA RELEASE

**Gloucester Township to Host
2016 United States Police Canine Association National Patrol Dog Trials**

Agile and efficient, fast and loyal, courageous—these are just a few of the words that can describe the K-9 teams that will be coming from all over the nation, and Canada, to compete in the 2016 United States Police Canine Association National Patrol Dog Trials. The Gloucester Township Police Department (GTPD) is proud to announce that it has been selected to host this annual event that will take place September 25, 2016 through September 30, 2016.

Approximately 150 Police K-9 teams will come to Gloucester Township to vie for national certification and compete for individual awards. The teams that compete at the Nationals are the best Police Working Dogs in North America. They have competed in their home states and earned a qualifying score to participate in this very prestigious competition. Law enforcement administrators and thousands of spectators are expected to attend.

“This is a great opportunity for the residents of South Jersey and Philadelphia to get a close look at the dedication and drive for perfection that goes into K-9 police work. Gloucester Township couldn’t be more honored to be the 2016 host,” notes Mayor Mayer. “This will be an exciting event filled with visual adventures as audience members watch the teams work tactically to conquer the courses on the fields. It will be free to the public and won’t cost taxpayers anything. Just come out and enjoy!”

Planning for the event is well underway. It will be funded by various means of fundraising, including an [Indiegogo campaign](#) that will accept tax deductible donations. This event will be held at the fields at Community Park (Peter Cheeseman Road & Hickstown Road, NJ 08081). The K-9 teams will be tested in the areas of obedience, agility, evidence recovery, suspect search and the most exciting phase the criminal apprehension with and without gun fire. “We look forward to hosting this event and to compete against these talented K-9 teams,” said Chief Harry Earle. “I encourage the public to come out and see the impressive skills of these dedicated handlers and their K-9’s.” One of the highlights will be a free public demonstration on September 29th at 6:00 p.m. here in Gloucester Township at Timber Creek High School. Gloucester Township invites you to join the excitement and festivities which will also include food from regional restaurants.

The United States Police Canine Association is the largest and oldest active organization of its kind. It is a non-profit 501 (3c) association that provides training and certifications for federal, state, and local law enforcement K-9 programs.

Media inquiries should be directed to the GTPD Community Relations Bureau Commander, Lt. Brendan Barton, at bbarton@GTPolice.com or 856-374-5712. For information on competitor registration and event inquiries should be directed to Ptl. Chris Gerace at 609-685-2771 or cgerace@GTPolice.com. Visit <http://Glotwp.com/2016k9> for more information.

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