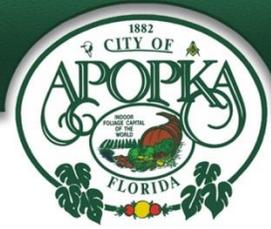


News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Friday, March 11, 2016

School Student Picks New Name for Apopka Police Canine

APOPKA, Fla. – The Apopka Police Department is planning a special surprise to announce the name of its new canine.



Officers will be at Apopka Memorial Middle School, 425 N. Park Ave., at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 17, to meet one thoughtful student who suggested the best name for the dog as part of a contest for all students at Apopka Middle and nearby Wolf Lake Middle School.

The winning student's class will get a pizza party. Police canine officers will present a demonstration with their dogs. Police staff also will attend the activities. The student also will get to meet the police department's newly named, four-legged officer.

The beautiful dog - an energetic, 21-month-old Belgian Malinois - is teamed up with Apopka police Officer Josean Velez Cantres, who joined the Apopka Police Department five years ago. The two started working together last month, and they have been training to teach the dog patrol and drug detection skills.

The police department received dozens of ideas from school students to name the canine – everything from common dog names to unusually common school items like pencil and paper. News of the contest spread quickly online, where local residents offered a few of their own suggestions for the students to name the canine - Darter, Tater, Scout, Thor and Sawyer among the different ideas.

The City of Apopka is a growing area ideally located 13 miles northwest of Orlando with major roadway access to many parts of Central Florida. The hometown community has more than 45,000 residents across 33 square miles and includes a diverse mix of business development.

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