

*Office of the Mayor*  
CITY OF MANITOWOC

# Commendation

**WHEREAS,** K9 Neko was born on October 27th, 2014 in the small European country of Slovakia. He was brought to the United States in 2016 and trained to be a dual-purpose Police K9 at Shallow Creek Kennels in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania. A dual-purpose Police K9 is a K9 trained in multiple facets, such as drug detection, handler protection, human tracking, area and building searches, and article detection, and;

**WHEREAS,** Officer Jason Koenig and K9 Neko became a team on April 17th, 2017, and trained at Shallow Creek Kennels until he was ready to start working patrol duties. K9 Neko's first day on patrol with the Manitowoc Police Department was May 2nd, 2017, and Officer Koenig and K9 Neko continued to train monthly and recertify yearly in all of his disciplines. He has been certified through the North American Police Working Dogs Association and Steinig Tal Kennel. In addition, the team is a member of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association, and;

**WHEREAS,** K9 Neko is a passive alert drug detection dog. A passive alert K9 is trained to sniff out the source of the odor. Once he locates the spot with the strongest odor, he will sit or lay down. K9 Neko is trained to detect the odors of Heroin, Methamphetamine, Marijuana, Cocaine and its chemical cousins. Over K9 Neko's career, he has helped locate and remove over 7.5 pounds of drugs and over \$78,000 of drug-related cash. The following drugs and items were removed from the streets thanks to K9 Neko:

Methamphetamine/ Amphetamines: 546.5 grams

Cocaine: 837.2 grams

Crack Cocaine: 52.2 grams

Heroin: 16.2 grams

Fentanyl: 22.1 grams

Ecstasy/ MDMA: 3.4 grams

Psilocybin Mushrooms: 8.7 grams

Marijuana Bud: 1,634.7 grams

Hashish/Marijuana Wax/Edibles: 288.3 grams

Morphine/Prescription Pills: 23 grams

Drug paraphernalia: 250 items

US Currency: \$78,117.00

**WHEREAS,** In addition to drug detection, K9 Neko's patrol duties are in human tracking and apprehension, area and building searches, and article detection. Over his career, K9 Neko has successfully located 78 suspects or missing persons. During these searches, four guns were recovered. With his experience in tracking, he is frequently requested to assist by neighboring jurisdictions, and;

**WHEREAS,** In March 2023, Officer Koenig and K9 Neko received an Award of Valor for their lifesaving efforts in February 2023. K9 Neko was able to locate a male in need of immediate medical help who would have succumbed to the cold temperatures if he was not located. In addition, K9 Neko has been nominated twice for the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association track of the year, and;

**WHEREAS,** K9 Neko is part of the Manitowoc Police Department Warrant Service Team. This team is used to serve search and arrest warrants where a tactical response is needed. If needed, K9 Neko can be deployed to apprehend a suspect or he can perform a drug sniff of the building or vehicle to assist with searches, and;

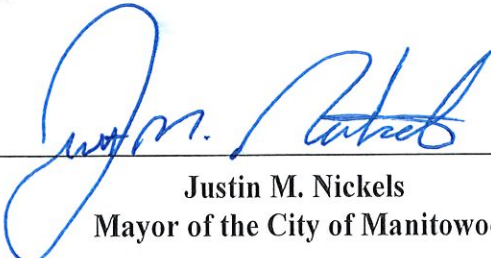
**WHEREAS,** K9 Neko continues to represent the City of Manitowoc and Manitowoc Police Department with numerous community presentations and demonstrations. He assists with K9 school sniffs throughout Manitowoc and Calumet Counties. K9 Neko has always been a quiet dog, but his presence and eagerness to work has been proven time and time again, and;

**WHEREAS,** K9 Neko will retire from the Manitowoc Police Department on February 19th, 2025, and continue living with his handler, Officer Koenig. He will spend some well-deserved days rolling around in the snow, spending time with his family, and enjoying lots of treats and toys.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Justin M. Nickels, Mayor of the City of Manitowoc, do hereby commend K9 Neko for his years of service to the citizens of the City of Manitowoc and congratulate and wish him a happy, healthy and relaxing retirement.



**Signed and Sealed this  
17<sup>th</sup> day of February, Twenty Twenty-Five**

  
Justin M. Nickels  
Mayor of the City of Manitowoc