



# TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Accredited Agency

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 26, 2013

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### **RIVERHEAD TOWN POLICE K-9 UNIT ASSISTS EASTHAMPTON VILLAGE IN APPREHENDING GRAND LARCENY SUSPECT**

**East Hampton, NY** – The Riverhead Town Police K-9 unit consisting of Riverhead Police Officer John R. Doscinski #156 and his K-9 police companion, Vaki, played a critical role in the apprehension of a grand larceny suspect in the Village of East Hampton.

According to East Hampton Village Mayor, Paul F. Rickenbach, Jr., an East Hampton Village resident heard something suspicious outside his home on the evening of November 21 and confronted an individual who was attempting to enter multiple vehicles. After a brief scuffle, the resident went back inside his home and quickly notified local police. Due to the immediacy of the situation, a Suffolk County helicopter and the Riverhead Town Police K-9 unit were called to assist.

Officer Doscinski and K-9 Vaki tracked the fleeing suspect for nearly a mile before forcing the suspect out of hiding behind a vacant house. Mayor Rickenbach said, "Working in conjunction with Suffolk County Police and Riverhead Town Police K-9 unit, we were able to apprehend the suspect," who he said was suspected of grand larceny and burglary.

Mayor Rickenbach credited Officer Doscinski's handling of Vaki, a 5½ year old German Shepherd from Hungary, and the dog's ability to track the suspect's scent as the primary reason for making the quick arrest. "It's one of those times, we can chalk one up for the good guys," he said. Officer Doscinski has been with the Riverhead Police Department for 24 years, 19 of which has been with the K-9 unit.

The mayor expressed his appreciation in a letter to Riverhead Supervisor, Sean M. Walter, on behalf of the Village Trustees and residents for the assist. In recognizing Officer Doscinski's performance with K-9 Vaki, Rickenbach wrote, "The manner in which they executed their duties and assisted our Village Police Department are commendable."



Similarly, East Hampton Village Police Chief, Gerard Larsen, Jr., wrote a letter to his Riverhead counterpart, Chief David J. Hegermiller, to express his appreciation for “the outstanding job by Police Officer Doscinski and his dog in apprehending the grand larceny suspect.”

“This was a great job by Officer Doscinski and Vaki to assist our neighbors to the east,” said Hegermiller. “This is the way it is supposed to work - cooperating with nearby municipalities to keep our neighborhoods safe.”

Supervisor Sean Walter praised the efforts of Officer Doscinski and the K-9 unit. “I am proud that they were able to play a key role in the arrest of this grand larceny suspect. Intermunicipal cooperation is the right thing to do,” he said. “You never know when we may need the help.”

Supervisor Walter, as the Police Commissioner of the Riverhead Police Department, will be presenting a citation to Police Officer Doscinski and K-9 Police Vaki at the January 7, 2014 Town Board Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

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