



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 8, 2010**

## **Sheriff Haley Continues to Improve Court Security with addition of K-9 Team**

**WHEN:** Beginning January 11, 2010

**WHERE:** All court houses served by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office

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In an ongoing effort to continuously improve safety measures at the Washoe County Court Complex, Sheriff Mike Haley has assigned a K9 team to the facility. Beginning Monday, January 11, 2010, Sergeant John Hamilton will again be teamed up with K9 Cartuche and will be available for use at all the courts served by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

K9 Cartuche is a fully trained eight year old German Shepherd. He was donated to the Sheriff's office team in 2007, but due to budget constraints at the time, the new team was unable to attend formal training. Hamilton raised over \$5,500 in donations in order to attend training in Auburn California. On patrol, Cartuche immediately proved an effective asset by apprehending a suspect during a burglary in progress just days after returning from training. He is also known for tracking numerous suspects assisting deputies to make the arrests. He worked patrol with Deputy Hamilton for approximately a year and a half until March 2008 when Hamilton promoted to Sergeant and Cartuche was retired.

"In police work it has been shown that the mere presence of a K9 at a potentially volatile situation makes people think twice about exercising poor judgment or bad behavior," states Sheriff Mike Haley. "A dog team will be a great addition to court security with minimal cost to the county."

Cartuche is a very social dog and is trained to apprehend violent offenders, track suspects and provide protection. Police dogs are working animals and they take their work very seriously. It is important to always ask for permission before touching or approaching a police dog, and never offer food or treats to a police dog unless the handler first indicates that it is acceptable for their dog.



Sergeant Hamilton and Cartuche