

# COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## Press Release

**SHERIFF DAVID W. HARRISON JR.**

Contact: Lieutenant James Andrews  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 1, 2012

### **SHERIFF ACQUIRES EXPLOSIVE'S DETECTION CANINE**

**Greenport, NY** – Sheriff David Harrison, Jr. announces the acquisition and addition of a 2 year old German Sheppard from East Slovakia to the Sheriff's Office K9 unit. Kira was made available to the Sheriff through a grant received by the NYS Department of Homeland Security. The grant furnished the K9, her training and all related equipment. Kira and her handler, Deputy Sheriff Peter Grzeskow, attended a 12 week handler protection and patrol school in Syracuse, NY and an additional 4 weeks of explosives detection training also in Syracuse. Both schools were sponsored and instructed by the Syracuse NY Police Department.

Kira is available to assist all Law Enforcement agencies in the surrounding area and was most recently utilized by the Greene County Sheriff's Office in the execution of a search warrant.

James Horton, Assistant Director and James Turley, Law Enforcement Coordinator of the NYS Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Counter Terrorism was instrumental in acquiring the funding for the Sheriff's Office.

As with the Sheriff's Office other K9 units, Kira participates regular monthly maintenance training. Kira joined K9's Nico and his handler Deputy Sheriff Heath Benansky along with Andi and his handler Deputy Sheriff Chad Shufelt who are both patrol and narcotics detection K9's.