

PSO PETER J HOYT & K9 Q
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SAFETY (MI)

CATCH OF THE QUARTER

On 11/24/09 @ 0355 Hrs, Kalamazoo Township PD (KTPD) responded to an elderly woman's house in the 2400 block of Althia St. She reported an unknown suspect had thrown a rock through her back window. KTPD requested K9 assistance and K9 Q and I responded. KTPD had no suspect info, description or direction of travel. The best they had was the suspect has been somewhere in the back yard. I further learned the victim had waited 5 to 10 minutes before calling police. It was a cool, dry, fall night.

I took K9 Q to the back yard and gave him the command to track as I cast him about. About 30' from the back window, K9 Q head snapped left, and he abruptly turned left. He put his nose down, mouth closed, hunched up, and started pulling with strong commitment and drive. We tracked N/B to the back fence where K9 Q stood on his hind legs looking over the fence. I recognized this behavior to indicate the suspects had jumped the fence here.

K9 Q jumped the fence and we tracked N/E through the next yard to the back fence. K9 Q jumped this fence. In this back yard K9 Q started circling and was very excited. I took him to the corner where he seemed to have the most interests, the N/W corner. In this corner K9 Q resumed tracking N/B over a 5' tall pile of leaves. We tracked N/B through several back yards all of course separated by fences.

Just short of the next street to the north (Hillsdale,) K9 Q turned and tracked W/B along the back side of the Hillsdale houses. We tracked to Fletcher. K9 Q continued tracking S/W across the street and then W/B about two houses south of Hillsdale. We tracked W/B for 7 blocks crossing Jinks Blvd, Grand Prix, Cooledge Ave, Manor Ave, Bretton Dr, and Calhoun St. Each back yard had a fence to climb or walk around. I requested additional officers to assist with securing the perimeter to knock the suspects down.

The track led to the rear play ground area of a school. We were tracking S/B through the playground, about half way across, when we heard the south fence of the school property rattle from someone jumping it. I gave a verbal order for them to stop or I would release the dog. The suspects continued running. We continued tracking S/B over the fence into a small wooded area. Once through the woods we tracked into the back yard of a house on Grace Rd. At the back of the house, K9 Q tracked W/B until we tracked up to a back yard with a 6' privacy fence. I left my cover officer on the east side of the yard as I went to the west side to try and pick the track up there. Before I got to the west side, the cover officer saw the suspects lying on the other side of the fence. He ordered them to jump the fence and come to him. Exhausted they did and were taken into custody without further incident.

One of the two suspects cooperated and identified two additional accomplices. They had fled in a car back at the scene. The 4 had gotten split up in the yard where K9 Q had circled several times. The suspect further admitted they planned to B&E the home once

they were confident no one was home. Officers went and located the two additional suspects and arrested them at their residence.

This track was compounded as it was our third track of the night. The second track over a mile long had just been finished 5 minutes before this one. This track was a little over a mile long and it took us over countless fences and other obstacles. If it were not for K9 Q, none of these suspects would have been identified or arrested. K9 Q is the sole reason this case was solved.