



**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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Government and Media Relations

**Date: October 11, 2018**

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### **Homeland Security Division: Loss of K9 Sonyi**

**Seattle** – The Washington State Patrol Homeland Security Division is saddened to announce the passing of one of our K9 partners. K9 Sonyi was a 5-year-old Yellow Lab that was assigned to Trooper Scott Legler and worked in the North Region covering Washington State Ferry Terminals primarily in Snohomish County. K9 Sonyi had a long battle with an infection that was ultimately unable to be cured. Sonyi passed away at a Veterinary Hospital on October 10, 2018.

The WSP Homeland Security Division Explosive Detection K9 Program assigns K9 partners to their handlers on a permanent basis. The extensive training program allows an extremely strong bond to form between both handler and K9. This allows for an effective and efficient working relationship. It is the K9 Handlers job to keep the K9 on track and sniffing the appropriate areas as they work through their shift together. There is a mutual trust formed and a bond that continues off duty as well.

Once the working life of a K9 partner is over, the WSP handlers have the first opportunity to adopt the K9 and allow them a restful retirement. It is common for K9's to have an enjoyable life after they have provided dedicated service to the citizens of Washington State. Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste said, "We'll forever remember K-9 Sonyi's public service contributions to helping us protect and serve our state's many Ferry System users."



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