



Maywood Police Department Detective Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maywood Police Department Becomes First Law Enforcement in the Country to Partner with Find'em™ Scent Safe, a Scent Collection System Used to Locate Missing Persons.

January 13, 2020, Maywood, NJ - The Police Department of Maywood, New Jersey, and Find'em™ Scent Safe, a game-changing tool to help law enforcement find missing individuals and reunite them with their loved ones, have announced a new partnership, becoming the first such law enforcement agency in the country to make the unique Find'em™ kit available at no cost to its residents.

Find'em™ is a scent collection and storage system that is intended to assist a search dog team with a viable, uncontaminated scent article of a missing person, regardless if they are lost or facing a medical emergency. And it is a proactive way to protect children, older adults, those with Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease and Autism, as well as hunters, hikers and nature lovers. Experts state that the first three hours is the most critical window of time for locating a missing person.

Those individuals who will be eligible to pick up a free Find'em kit, include Maywood residents who are elderly, disabled, or any other individuals who may be at risk for wandering from the places where they live. The kits will be available for registration and pick-up beginning January 13, 2020, at the Maywood Police Department, 15 Park Avenue, Maywood, NJ, 07607.

"We're thrilled to have this opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Coby Webb, a highly respected and accomplished police captain in Southern California, as well as the founder of Find'em™ Scent Safe," said Chris Nichols, a Detective/K9 Handler with the Maywood Police Department and head of its K9 unit. "My unit looks forward to making

this product available for the safety and well-being of our residents should they ever be in the situation of needing to safely locate a missing loved one.”

Collecting a person’s scent item with Find’em™ takes less than 10 minutes. The Scent Safe storage case includes all materials, one of which is a sterile gauze pad to be placed on an optimum-scent-collection area on the body. After the gauze pad is held in place for five minutes, it is then to be placed in the enclosed tamper-evident bag. The bag is then put back in the Scent Safe case, which is recommended to be stored in a freezer located near or in your residence. When stored properly, the scent collection item is usable for 12 months. Find’em was independently tested and found to be 93 percent effective after one year of storage in a freezer.

“I’ve worked on hundreds of missing person cases throughout a career that has spanned 10 years, and I have no doubt making a resource like Find’em™ Scent Safe available for our residents as a proactive safety measure will prove to be invaluable,” added Nichols. “An uncontaminated human scent is absolutely critical for search dogs to have the ultimate success of locating a missing person.”

Non-residents and all others can purchase kits at findemscentsafe.com.

The Maywood Police Department, a 25-member agency in the heart of Bergen County, brought the first-ever bloodhound K9 Unit in the history of the county’s law enforcement into service in 2016. Bergen, New Jersey’s most populous county with 72 municipalities and nearly 1 million residents sees countless missing persons investigations each year involving the full spectrum of cognitive disabilities. The bloodhound unit is called on by municipalities throughout the county to assist in these searches. As of 2019, the K9 Unit has expanded to also include a German shepherd who is trained in patrol and narcotics detection. Both K9’s are assigned to the same handler. The K9 Unit is fully funded through donations and seized assets. To learn more about the Maywood Police Department K9 Unit, visit www.maywoodpd.org/k-9-unit.