

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JANUARY 31, 2005

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY IN THE FORM OF A HORSE AND DIRECTION TO THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AN AMENDMENT TO THE DISPOSITION OF SALVAGE AND SCRAP PROPERTY ORDINANCE P.M.C. 4.04 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF POLICE SERVICE ANIMALS TO POLICE OFFICERS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- i) Authorize the transfer of "Dude", a 17-year-old Dutch Warmblood Gelding horse, to Officer Steve Arcand of the Pasadena Police Department;
- ii) Find that based upon the information contained herein and such further information as may be presented to the City Council at its January 31st regular meeting, a public purpose is served by exempting the proposed transfer from the provisions of the Disposition of Salvage and Scrap Property Ordinance P.M.C. 4.04, pursuant to section 4.04.080.
- iii) Direct the City Attorney to return within 90 days with an amendment to the Disposition of Salvage and Scrap Property Ordinance, authorizing the transfer of police service animals to police officers.

BACKGROUND

The Pasadena Police Department's Equestrian program was established approximately seven years ago. As a result of various operational challenges, the program was eliminated in September 2004. Presently, only one horse remains from the program, a 17-year-old Dutch Warmblood Gelding named "Dude" who was donated to the City. The horse is currently being boarded at the Flintridge Riding Club in the City of La Canada at City expense.

The primary officer assigned to the equestrian unit was Officer Steve Arcand. Officer Arcand was with the unit from its inception and worked tirelessly in its

support, often donating his own personal time. He has established a strong bond with Dude. Officer Arcand has indicated a willingness to take the horse, thereby alleviating the City the expense of boarding it, and/or finding another suitable owner. Consequently, it is in the best interests of the City as well as the horse, that it be transferred to Officer Arcand.

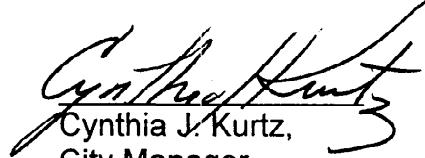
The Disposition of Salvage and Scrap Property Ordinance prohibits the sale or transfer of salvage or surplus property to city employees except through public auction or sealed bids open to the general public. However, staff recommends that an exception be made for animals performing police services and the ordinance modified accordingly.

The Department also has two police dogs. It has been the past practice to allow handlers to retain the dogs assigned to them upon the animals' end of service. These animals receive special training with their handlers and are often not suitable for other owners. Amending the Disposition of Salvage and Scrap Property Ordinance to allow for such transfer would conform policy to practice and would memorialize Pasadena's commitment to animal welfare.

FISCAL IMPACT

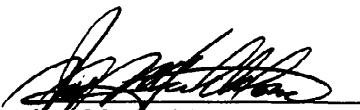
The transfer of the horse to Officer Arcand will alleviate the \$420 monthly boarding expense currently being incurred by the Police Department. Staff estimates the value of the horse to be between \$1,000 and \$1,200. Nevertheless, given the circumstances staff is requesting the transfer to Officer Arcand at no cost.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz,
City Manager

Approved by:



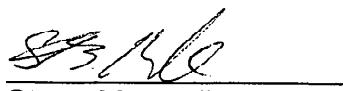
Jay M. Goldstone
Director of Finance

Reviewed by:



W/D per [signature]
Bernard Melekian
Chief of Police

Prepared by:



Steve Mermell
Budget Administrator