



Agenda Item No: 1.h

PLACENTIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 6, 2025

Submitted by: Teri Knutson

From: Police Department

Subject:

Retirement and Ownership Transfer of Police Service Dog

Financial Impact:

Fiscal Impact:

Expense: \$0.00

Offsetting Revenue: \$1.00

Summary:

Police Service Dog "Champ" is six years old. After several years of loyal and exemplary service with the Placentia Police Department, "Champ" has reached the end of his service career due to unforeseen medical issues. The Police Department is requesting approval from City Council to transfer ownership of "Champ" to Police Officer Zachary King.

Recommendation:

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the City Council take the following action to:

1. Approve the "Release and Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement" authorizing the transfer of ownership of retired Police Service Dog "Champ" to Officer Zachary King: and
2. Authorize the Interim City Administrator, or his designee, to execute an agreement with Police Officer Zachary King to purchase Police Service Dog "Champ" in the amount of one dollar (\$1.00). In a form approved by the City Attorney.

Strategic Plan Statement:

This item is consistent with the City Council approved Strategic Plan Goal 2, to ensure that Public Safety Continues to be a High Priority.

Discussion:

Police Service Dog "Champ" is 6 years old and has served the City of Placentia for approximately 5 years. Champ has had a distinguished career as both a Patrol and Narcotics Detection dog. During Champ's length of service, he has been involved in numerous felony arrests and apprehensions as well as illicit drug seizures. At six years of age, Champ is slowing down and has developed spine issues that will only worsen. It has been recommended that Champ retire now so he can have a decent quality of life. It has been department practice, since inception of the canine program, to transfer ownership of the canines that have reached the end of their active service life, to their handlers or former handlers for a nominal sum. Transfer of ownership is also standard practice among other law

enforcement agencies. This practice is in the best interest of the animal and removes the possibility of any potential liability to the City. Council has approved such transfers in the past when service dogs have reached an age or developed medical conditions, which prevent their continued service.

Police Officer Zachary King, Champ's handler for the Police Department wishes to purchase ownership of Champ and the City wishes to divest itself of both ownership and vicarious or direct liability for Champ. Champ should be released to Officer King as per the contract. Officer King will purchase Champ for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00). The required Release and Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact Summary:

There is no expense to the City and the City will receive one dollar (\$1.00) from the sale of Police Service Dog Champ to Police Officer Zachary King.

Attachments

[Retired K9 Purchase - Waiver Agreement \(003\).doc](#)