

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF THE OWNERSHIP OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S K-9 DOGS TO THEIR POLICE DEPARTMENT HANDLERS UPON THE DOG'S RETIREMENT OR UNDER CERTAIN OTHER CONDITIONS

ISSUE: Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the transfer of the ownership of the Police Department's K-9 Dogs to their Police Department handlers upon the dog's retirement or under certain other conditions.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council adopt the attached resolution.

DISCUSSION: Alexandria police officers who are the handlers of the Department's K-9 dogs usually take them home, care for them, and consider them to be family members. When the police officer retires or leaves City service, the City allows departing Police Department K-9 handlers to take their dogs with them if they desire, but bills them for the prorated value of the dog based on eight years of working life. If the dog is over eight years of age, we allow the dog to be transferred to its handler, since the dog is at retirement age. The Police Department supports the transfer of the ownership of such dogs to the retiring Police Department handler for no cost due to the dog's age. The handler will be responsible for all veterinary, food, and other costs associated with the dog.

In the past, Council has authorized the transfer of K-9 dogs to their Police Department handler when the dogs have retired because of age or medical problems in accordance with Section 2.03(g) of the City Charter. This resolution would transfer this responsibility to the City Manager, so that such requests would not need to be docketed for Council consideration. I recommend that Council authorize the City Manager to transfer ownership of Police Department K-9 dogs to their Police Department handlers upon the dog's retirement or under certain other conditions.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution

STAFF:

Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager
Charles Samarra, Police Chief

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council recognizes the service that the City's residents receive from the Alexandria Police Department's police officers and K-9 service dogs; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria police officers who are the handlers of these dogs frequently take them home, care for them, and consider them to be family members; and

WHEREAS, the dogs relate and bond with their handler as the dog's real owner, master and care giver, and this relationship and bond frequently extends to the other members of the officer's family; and

WHEREAS, when a handler retires or otherwise leaves City service, the strength of this bond makes it difficult to transfer the dog to a new handler; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the City has on a case by case basis permitted a handler to adopt and take their dog with them, and reimburse the City for the balance of the dog's expected working life of eight years; and

WHEREAS, when a dog, by reason of its age or medical condition, must be retired from active service, the City has also on a case by case basis permitted the dog's handler to adopt the dog without charge; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determines that such transfers of ownership serve the public interest by aiding and facilitating the Alexandria Police Department's Canine Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.03(g) of the Alexandria City Charter the City Council has the authority to authorize and approve the sale, transfer or disposition of City property; and

WHEREAS, K-9 service dogs to be transferred or retired from service do not constitute the type of surplus property of the City which is subject to disposition to the highest bidder pursuant to Section 3-3-81 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a general program for the transfer and adoption of K-9 service dogs, and authorize the City Manager to approve the transfer and adoption of such dogs; now, therefore,

The Alexandria City Council hereby resolves:

1. That the City Manager be, and hereby is, authorized to transfer to a handler who is retiring or otherwise leaving City service, ownership of the handler's K-9 service dog, upon a determination by the City Manager that such transfer is consistent with the public interest, and subject to the following conditions.

- A. If the dog has a remaining service life, the handler shall reimburse the City

for the reasonable value of such remaining service life, as determined by the City Manager.

- B. If the City Manager determines that, because of the dog's age or medical condition, the reasonable value of the dog's remaining service life is *de minimis*, no reimbursement shall be required.
2. That the City Manager be, and hereby is, authorized to transfer to a handler who is continuing in City service, ownership of the handler's K-9 service dog, upon a determination by the City Manager that such transfer is consistent with the public interest, and subject to the following conditions.
- A. If the dog has a remaining service life, and the City Manager determines that extraordinary circumstances nevertheless warrant such transfer, the handler shall reimburse the City for the reasonable value of such remaining service life, as determined by the City Manager.
 - B. If the City Manager determines that, because of the dog's age or medical condition, the reasonable value of the dog's remaining service life is *de minimis*, no reimbursement shall be required.
3. That upon transfer of ownership, the City shall have no further responsibility for the feeding, care or veterinary treatment of the dog.

Adopted: _____

WILLIAM D. EUILLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2140

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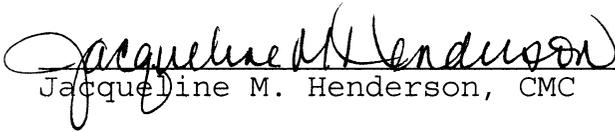
ADOPTED: February 22, 2005



WILLIAM D. EUILLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk