



MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Chief of Police

DATE: January 22, 2013

RE: Consideration - Recommendation to Retire K-9 "Nero"

BACKGROUND:

On January 18, 2013, the Chief of Police Office received notification of the need to retire "Nero", a nine year old canine officer with the Elizabeth City Police Department. The decision to retire Nero was based upon the recommendation of Nero's veterinarian and also his K-9 handler (Officer Caleb Hudson) who both agreed that the canine was no longer able to perform his law enforcement duties (i.e. searches, tracking, etc.). Nero's age and overall health condition were cited as reasons in reaching this conclusion. Officer Hudson has expressed an interest in purchasing canine Nero, who he will keep as the family's pet and no longer use for the administering of police duties. Staff recommends that the City of Elizabeth City sell canine Nero to Officer Caleb Hudson for \$1.00, and by doing so, surplus the dog and remove from ECPD's roster.

ANALYSIS:

Officer Caleb Hudson has been assigned to canine Nero since 2008, when the dog was first purchased by the City using donated ECPD K-9 funds. Officer Hudson is the only canine handler the dog has known for the last 4 ½ years. The dog's age, along with his overall declining health, are the primary reasons the veterinarian recommended the dog for retirement. It would be difficult for Nero to adapt to a new environment at this stage in his life. If purchased by Officer Hudson, Nero would be accepted as the family pet and treated as such. He would be given a safe environment to live out the remainder of his days. For this reason, it is recommended that the City of Elizabeth City surplus this canine by selling the dog to former K-9 Handler Officer Caleb Hudson.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- Recommend that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to remove Canine Nero from service; and
- Further, recommend the sale of canine Nero to Officer Hudson for \$1.00; and
- Further authorize the purchase of a new canine for the Police Department.

RESOLUTION
Authorizing the City Manager to Remove
a Police Canine from Service

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City owns a black and tan in color Belgian Malinois Shepard breed dog named Nero who has served as a canine officer for the police department; and

WHEREAS, canine officer Nero's medical condition is such that he should be retired from service; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-266(c) permits the City of Elizabeth City to discard any personal property that is determined to have no value; and

WHEREAS, while canine officer Nero's service to our police department and our City cannot be adequately valued in monetary terms, his age and medical condition place him beyond the ability to consider asking a monetary amount for his adoption.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF ELIZABETH CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES THAT:

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City authorizes the City Manager to transfer ownership of such canine to such person or agency who in the Manager's sole discretion believes capable of providing the best care for such canine and upon such terms and conditions that the Manager shall determine.

Resolved in regular session, this the 28th day of January 2013.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk