

RESOLUTION NO 2025 - 094

CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA APPROVING THE RETIREMENT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF POLICE SERVICE DOG K-9 RUGAR TO HIS HANDLER, CORPORAL GARY BORCHARDT; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS OF FACT IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY APPROVING SAID TRANSFER; RECOGNIZING THE AUTHORITY OF THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SUCH DOCUMENTS AS ARE NECESSARY TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF SAID K-9 RUGAR; REPEALING ALL PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Lake City (the “City”) funds the Lake City Police Department (the “Department”); and

WHEREAS, K-9 Rugar has faithfully served the Department for eight (8) years alongside his handler, Corporal Gary Borchardt; and

WHEREAS, K-9 Rugar is ten (10) years old and accordingly the continued physical demands of active police service is no longer recommended; and

WHEREAS, the Department recommends K-9 Rugar be formally retired from active duty effective October 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of K-9 Rugar’s dedicated service and strong bond with his handler, the Department recommends ownership of K-9 Rugar be transferred to Corporal Gary Borchardt upon his retirement; and

WHEREAS, the City finds such transfer is in the public or community interest and for public welfare; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida:

1. The retirement of Police Service Dog K-9 Rugar and transfer of ownership to his handler Gary Borchardt is in the public or community interest and for public welfare; and
2. In furtherance thereof, the transfer of ownership of K-9 Rugar to his handler, Corporal Gary Borchardt upon his retirement from active duty should be and is approved by the City Council of the City of Lake City; and

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3. The Mayor of the City of Lake City is the officer of the City duly designated by the City's Code of Ordinances to enforce such rules and regulations as are adopted by the City Council of the City of Lake City; and
 4. The Mayor of the City of Lake City is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of and bind the City to such documents as are necessary to complete the transfer of ownership of K-9 Ruger to Corporal Gary Borchardt; and
 5. All prior resolutions of the City in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict; and
 6. This resolution shall become effective and enforceable upon final passage by the City Council of the City of Lake City.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, at a regular meeting, this ____ day of July, 2025.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY,
FLORIDA

Noah E. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST, BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA:

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Clay Martin, City Attorney



Lake City Police Department

Intra-Departmental Correspondence Form



To: Chief Butler
From: Assistant Chief Miles *Am*
Subject: K9 Rugar
Date: May 23, 2025

I have received memos from Peg Hickey, from Von See Stadt Kennels, and SSG Connie Milligan. Both of them recommend that K9 Rugar be retired at the end of his certification.

K9 Rugar has been a valuable member of the Lake City Police Department for many years, and is almost 10 years old. He is not currently demonstrating any indications that his health is declining, however, both SSG Milligan and Ms. Hickey note that typically police k9s start to experience those health problems at around his current age.

I believe that Rugar has served his time for the Lake City Police Department well, and has earned the right to slow down. I do not think it would be good for him to continue to serve as a police dog and begin to deteriorate without having the opportunity to just enjoy being a family pet.

Corporal Borchardt (his handler) has requested that K9 Rugar be allowed to continue to serve until his certification runs out. He is currently certified through the end of October of this year. Neither Ms. Hickey or SSG Milligan cite any reason he should be retired immediately.

It is my recommendation that K9 Rugar be allowed to complete serving the Lake City Police Department though October 2025, and that he retire when his certification expires.