

MEETING DATE
3-15-21

CITY OF LAKE CITY

Report to Council

COUNCIL AGENDA	
SECTION	
ITEM NO.	

SUBJECT: Request for Retirement and Adoption of Police K9 Max

DEPT / OFFICE: Lake City Police Department

Originator:

Chief Argatha Gilmore

City Manager

Joe Helfenberger

Department Director

Chief Argatha Gilmore 

Date

3-12-21

Recommended Action:

Retirement and adoption of police K9 Max.

Summary Explanation & Background: K9 Max was donated to the City of Lake City Police Department. Per attached Report to Council, this was approved at the October 1, 2018 Council meeting. K9 Max has been in service with the Lake City Police Department for approximately two years. Officer Ryan Collins was Max's first police handler.

Peg Hickey of Von See Stadt Kennels, the certified training facility that trains our department's K9 and their handlers, has stated Max may not adjust well to being placed in another home or with another handler. Officer Collins' home was the fourth home which causes Mrs. Hickey concern to Max adjusting and bonding in yet another home. It is Mrs. Hickey's professional opinion that with the issues Max has with slick or tiled floors, he may hesitate being sent into a building with these floors. This hesitation could jeopardize Officer safety. Mrs. Hickey is unsure if additional training would alleviate this hesitation by Max.

Former Police Officer Collins requests permission to adopt Max from the City of Lake City. In doing so, he would accept all responsibilities and liability for Max's housing, care, veterinary needs, and food. The City of Lake City would relinquish any and all liability starting the date of Max's retirement.

Alternatives:

Source of Funds:

Financial Impact: None

Exhibits Attached:

1. Report to Council dated 9-25-18 regarding donation of German Shepherd, Max.
2. Letter from Officer Ryan Collins to Chief Gilmore requesting to retire and adopt K9 Max.
3. Letter dated 3-10-21 from Chief Gilmore to Ryan Collins acknowledging his request.
4. Letter dated February 2, 2021 from Von See Stadt Kennels recommending Max be retired due to issues outlined above.

MEETING DATE
10-1-18

CITY OF LAKE CITY

Report to Council

COUNCIL AGENDA	
SECTION	
ITEM NO.	

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Donation of Police K9 Officer

DEPT / OFFICE: Police

Originator: Chief Argatha Gilmore 

City Manager
Joe Helfenberger

Department Director
Chief Argatha Gilmore

Date
9-25-18

Recommended Action:

The Lake City Police Department is requesting approval to accept the donation of an 8 month old German shepherd that has been neutered and microchipped. This K9 officer would be assigned to the K9 unit.

Summary Explanation & Background:

The K9 unit is in need of an additional dog to be trained in drug detection and felony apprehension. This dog will be trained as a K9 officer. One of the current K9 officers is approaching retirement age, tentatively set for December 2019. With the acceptance of the donated K9, training will commence for the K9 along with a handler.

Alternatives:

The purchase of a K9 dog would cost approximately \$7500.00. A purchase of this magnitude would substantially impact the limited funding source of the Police Department.

Source of Funds:

A citizen has offered to donate this German shepherd to assist officers conducting effective police services and enforcement.

Financial Impact: No cost to agency

Exhibits Attached:

- Intradepartmental memo dated 9-6-18 from Lt. Miles to Chief Gilmore outlining initial contact with dog and its current owner
- Picture of prospective K9 German shepherd dog



Lake City Police Department

Intra-Departmental Correspondence Form



To: Chief Argatha Gilmore, via Chain of Command
From: Officer Ryan Collins *RC*
Subject: K9 Max
Date: February 17, 2021

I have been assigned as a K9 officer for the Lake City Police Department, partnered with K9 Max, for a little over two years. During our time as partners, my family has also bonded with K9 Max. My family and I would like to continue to have him as part of our lives.

During the time that K9 Max was on the road, he showed deficiencies on tile and other slick floors. Specifically, when he encountered these type floors, K9 Max would freeze up and not engage the threat. He would not walk on these floors. I have tried to get K9 Max over this fear by doing extra training at the kennels, but K9 Max did not overcome the fear, although he did improve some.

Over the course of K9 Max's life, he has gone through numerous owners until he was donated to the Police Department. I am requesting to purchase K9 Max from the Police Department (City of Lake City). It is my belief that Max would be better off by not having to bond with another partner while still trying to overcome known deficiencies.

*Argatha
2/17/21
Bic
2/18/21*



Dr. Argatha Gilmore
Chief of Police

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



www.lcflapd.com



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March 10, 2021

Ryan P. Collins
140 SW Bloomington Terrace
Lake City FL 32024

Dear Ryan:

I am in receipt of your request to adopt K9 Max upon his retirement from service. As you are aware, the adoption process requires City Council approval. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2021. We are working to get the request on the Council's agenda for that meeting.

In the interim, you have agreed to continue to care for, feed, and house Max until such time as City Council takes official action on the adoption request. Please be reminded K9 Max will not be used in any shape, or form, to conduct any type of police service or police K9 activity. You will be notified as soon as a final decision is made by the City Council

I would like to thank you for your service and dedication to the citizens of the City of Lake City and the Lake City Police Department, especially to the K9 program and to your partner, Max, during your tenure at the Department. If approved, I believe Max's retirement years will be spent in good hands in the caring environment of your home.

Sincerely,

Dr. Argatha Gilmore
Chief of Police

Cc: Assistant Chief Gerald Butler
Lt. Andy Miles
Sgt. Jason Byrd
Administrative File



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Von See Stadt Kennels
P.O. Box 3425
Lake City, Fl. 32056
Phone (386) 755-2713 Fax (386) 758-9576

Feb. 2, 2021

Asst. Chief Butler,

Per our conversation this morning, here are my thoughts on K-9 Max:

In his life, Max is already his 4th home with Officer Collins. This leads me to question whether or not he's going to adjust well and bond to yet another home and handler, or whether he will more or less shut down. In addition, he's been having some issues with slick or tile floors and while he's slowly getting used to them, he's not confident about running in to a house or other building with these types of floors. That could reflect in officer safety.

All in all, I would say that Max is a good dog, but not a strong one as far his ability to go to yet another handler and work in all capacities he needs to be able to work in.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call!

Sincerely,
Peg Hickey