



TO: Mayor Chuck Barney
Members of the City Council

FROM: Jason Olson, Chief of Police

DATE: December 18, 2017

SUBJECT: Retirement and Transfer of Ownership of Police K-9

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Recommend approval of the Retirement of Police K-9 Piko; and
2. Recommend approval of the Transfer of Ownership of Police K-9 Piko; and
3. Authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

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|--|----------|
| Jason Olson, Chief of Police | 857-4715 |
| Capt. John Klug, Patrol Division Commander | 857-9800 |

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Background

Police K-9 handler Titus Clouse resigned his position with the Minot Police Department in December 2017. Police K-9 Piko has been in service since 2013 and was partnered with Officer Clouse the entire time. Piko has become highly socialized with his handler and has already served over half of his projected service career, making reassignment impractical. Piko has also struggled in some areas that would make it advantageous to begin with a new K-9 in the future as opposed to retraining a different handler with Piko.

B. Proposal

Retire Police K-9 Piko from active service and transfer ownership responsibility to Titus Clouse for the sum of \$1 pursuant to the attached sale and waiver of liability agreement, and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Titus Clouse.

IV. IMPACT:

A. Strategic Impact:

The transfer of ownership of Police K-9 Piko to his former handler Titus Clouse will assure Piko a safe, comfortable, and familiar home. As his handler, Titus is aware of the special requirements of owning a former Police Service Dog and is already equipped to provide the necessary safety precautions inherent with owning a Police K-9.

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

The Police Department will still have Police K-9 Lois in service on Patrol. Should the Department determine that another K-9 is necessary in the future, pairing a new dog with a new handler is more efficient and will provide longer service than trying to repurpose Police K-9 Piko with a new handler.

C. Fiscal Impact:

The sale and waiver of liability agreement will protect the City from any potential future liability. It also will require that Titus Clouse will accept all financial responsibility for all future costs of ownership of Piko.

V. ALTERNATIVES

Alt 1. Attempt to identify and retrain a new handler for Police K-9 Piko. This is impractical as he has already served more than half of his expected viable service life, and there are no guarantees that he would adapt to the new handler and continue to provide effective service. It would be more efficient and cost effective to train a new Police K-9 with a new handler.

Alt 2. Euthanasia.

VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS

Titus Clouse and his family are currently housing and maintaining Piko at their residence, while the City still maintains ownership and liability. A timely resolution is essential.

VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Sale of "Piko" and Waiver of Liability Agreement