



**Item No. {{item.number}}**  
**Town of Atherton**

**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – CONSENT AGENDA**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

**FROM: STEVEN D. MCCULLEY, POLICE CHIEF**

**DATE: JULY 19, 2023**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A \$120,000 DONATION TO  
THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE CANINE PROGRAM,  
WHICH WOULD FUND ONE POLICE CANINE, RELATED  
TRAINING/EQUIPMENT, AND CANINE POLICE VEHICLE.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve and accept the \$120,000 donation from an Atherton resident for one police canine, related canine training/equipment, and a canine patrol vehicle.

**BACKGROUND**

The Atherton Department of Police Canine Unit was created to help the department with its primary function, the preservation of life and property. The Canine Unit assists in achieving this goal by promoting an atmosphere of service and safety in the community, utilizing canines in general and specialized patrol to enhance crime prevention, crime suppression, criminal investigation, and Police Officer/Citizen protection.

The Atherton Department of Police utilizes two canine units to provide canine coverage every day of the week. Currently, there is only one (1) canine in the unit and the vacancy was created when Canine Art retired with its handler on May 24, 2023.

**ANALYSIS**

Filling the vacant Canine Unit position would allow for canine coverage every day of the week for the Town of Atherton. The Canine Unit is used for scent detection (explosives, firearms, etc.), narcotic detection, and searching for humans. It often takes a trained canine team only minutes to check a building or large open area for scent detection, narcotic detection or searching for humans, where it might take hours and a host of officers to safely contain an area long enough to do a thorough search without the canine. The canine's nose can discern scent some 200-300 times better than a human. When the Canine Unit is not being used to search, they are great partners to

have as backup on a traffic stop, or any other call involving a subject who may not want to cooperate with the police. Subjects tend to become very cooperative, and they seldom try to evade officers when a canine is on scene. Canines use a patrol vehicle that is specially designed and outfitted for the comfort and safety of the canine.

The \$120,000 donation would fully fund the following:

- Canine – Approximately \$13,500.
- Canine Equipment – Approximately \$900.
  - Hard sleeve
  - Muzzle
  - Multiple leashes of different sizes
  - Multiple collars
  - Fur saver
  - Water bowls (for vehicle and home)
  - Police Service Animal toy or other reward
  - Deployment bag or box
  - Soft body armor (Police Service Animal)
  - Tracking/rappelling harnesses
- Canine/Handler Training – Approximately \$7,000
- Kennel for Home – Approximately \$3,600
- Canine Patrol Vehicle – Approximately \$95,000

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

### **GOAL ALIGNMENT**

This Report and its contents are in alignment with the following Council Policy Goals:

- Goal Area B – Preserve Small Town Character and Quality of Life
- Goal Area F – Be Forward-Thinking, Well-Managed, and Well-Planned

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders –to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

### **COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL**

Acceptance of \$120,000 Donation for Canine Program  
JULY 19, 2023  
Page 3 of 3

This item has not been before a Town Committee or Commission

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Lexipol Police Service Animal Policy