

APPROVED

NOV 19 2020

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 20-221

DATE November 19, 2020

C.D. ALL

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RETIREMENT OF PARK RANGER DIVISION MOUNTED UNIT HORSE AND DONATION OF THE HORSE TO PRIVATE CITIZEN

\* AP Diaz APD C. Santo Domingo
H. Fujita
V. Israel

M. Stuee
General Manager

Approved X Disapproved Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Duly acknowledge the practical and intrinsic benefit of the many years of dedicated services provided to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) by resident horse "Scout", belonging to the ranks of the Park Ranger Division Mounted Unit;
2. Appropriately recognize the qualitative value that the stately presence of "Scout" added to official events and ceremonies that proudly showcased public display, decorum, and propriety;
3. Bestow upon "Scout" its rightful place of gratitude and honor within the annals of RAP history as it's readied for discharge from service and retirement to places of well-deserved care and safety;
4. Approve the retirement of "Scout" from City service and grant permission to donate this horse to Dave Hoch, a private citizen, so that he may live out the remainder of his life under the care of an experienced equestrian;
5. Find that "Scout" is surplus City equipment eligible for donation under Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) 22.547 and request the City Council to approve the donation of "Scout" to Dave Hoch, a private citizen; and
6. Direct RAP staff to notify the General Services Department (GSD) and Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) of this surplus equipment available for donation in accordance with LAAC 22.547.

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### SUMMARY:

Scout is a 19 year-old quarter horse that has been with the Park Ranger Division (Division) since 2014. During the past six years with the Division, he has participated in numerous public events and regularly patrolled the trails of City Parks. Over the past year, Scout has begun to experience medical issues that prohibit him from participating in the work required of a service animal. While RAP honors Scout's service, staff believes that discharging this aging horse from the burden of City service is the most responsible and humane course of action at this time. Staff recommends that Scout be donated as surplus City equipment to Dave Hoch, a private citizen in accordance with LAAC 22.547 as the cost to discard, recycle or transport the surplus equipment would otherwise impose a documented net financial cost to the City. Dave Hoch and his wife Diana have horse property near Griffith Park and Diana is President of the GTI corral at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. Dave is a veteran in the United States Army and plans to continue taking Scout on short rides in Griffith Park.

### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

#### **Goal No. 4: Actively Engage Communities**

#### **Outcome No. 4: Enhanced visibility and awareness of Department parks, programs, and projects**

### FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund resulting from the above recommendations as all care and feeding costs associated with this animal will be transferred to another horse that will be obtained as a replacement.

This report was prepared by Adam Dedeaux, Mounted Unit Supervisor