

# APPROVED

MAY 05 2022

**BOARD REPORT**

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

NO. 22-100

DATE May 05, 2022

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	_____	* M. Rudnick	<u>MR</u>
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	_____
J. Kim	_____	N. Williams	_____

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved   X                        Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_                      Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Duly acknowledge the practical and intrinsic benefit of the years of dedicated services provided to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) by resident horse "Gryffin", belonging to the ranks of the Park Ranger Division Mounted Unit;
2. Appropriately recognize the qualitative value that the stately presence of "Gryffin" added to official events and ceremonies that proudly showcased public display, decorum, and propriety;
3. Bestow upon "Gryffin" 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 "Gryffin" from City service and grant permission to donate this horse to Chris Sobenes, a private citizen, so that he may live out the remainder of his life under the care of an experienced equestrian;
5. Find that "Gryffin" 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 "Gryffin" to Chris Sobenes, a private citizen;
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:

Gryffin is a 14 year old Appaloosa gelding that has been with the Department of Recreation and Parks, Park Ranger Division (Division) since 2021. At the time he was donated to the Division, he had behavioral issues that staff believed would be mitigated with training. In the year that Gryffin has been with the Division, our training has produced only minimal improvement to these issues, making him unsafe for staff and the public. We feel that additional training time would be best spent with other horses. While RAP honors Gryffin's service, staff believes that discharging this horse from the City service is the most responsible and prudent course of action at this time. The Division recommends that Gryffin be donated as surplus City equipment to Chris Sobenes, 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.

Ms. Sobenes is the owner of Steady Hand Horsemanship and operates ranches in Ventura and Paso Robles, California. She has over 28 years' experience working with horses and would be able to provide the training and facilities to give Gryffin with good retirement from City service working with cattle and living on a large pasture.

### 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