

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Police Department
DATE: June 22, 2004

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND
2004 JUN 10 PM 4:44

RE: **A Report and Proposed Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator or Her Designee to Accept and Appropriate a Donation in the Minimum Amount of Two Thousand Seventy-five Dollars (\$2,075) to the Oakland Police Department for the Acquisition of Two Bloodhounds, Valued at Approximately Four Hundred Dollars (\$400) Each, for a Total Cost of Approximately Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800), for Use by the Police Department Special Victims Section, With the Remainder of the Funds to be Used to Offset Handler Training Costs and the Purchase of Supplemental Supplies and/or Services**

SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of a minimum of \$2,075 in cash donations from local residents and businesses in response to an Oakland Tribune article (Attachment A) on the coming retirement of Buddy the Bloodhound from the Police Department's Special Victims Section. In addition, the resolution authorizes the purchase of two (2) replacement canines, with any remaining funds used to provide training for the new dogs' handlers.

FISCAL IMPACT

To date, 27 individuals and businesses have donated \$2,075 to be used exclusively by the Special Victims Section for the purchase of two Bloodhounds and to offset the cost of handler training and to purchase supplemental supplies and / or services. Each Bloodhound is valued at approximately \$400. Initial canine handler training costs are anticipated to be approximately \$600 per handler / dog team. Funds will be appropriated to General Fund No. 1010, in Org. : 102434, Account: 48714, in Project No. : P51800.

HISTORY

The Bloodhound is a medium to large, long eared hound, with floppy lips, a square-ish body and a long tail that is carried upright like a sickle. Today's Bloodhounds are descended from hounds bred by Hubert, a 7th-century French monk who later became the patron saint of hunters, and from hounds bred by other medieval noblemen who kept scent hounds as hunting dogs. Many strains, including hounds brought back to Europe by the Crusaders from the Holy Land, have blended to produce today's gentle giants. It was not until the 16th century that the Bloodhound

Item: 3
Public Safety Comte.
June 22, 2004

was used to track humans. Mantrailing, as it is known, has enjoyed a steady increase in modern day law enforcement and search and rescue. Trails performed by proven trailing Bloodhounds are permissible in court. "Blood," in the breed name "bloodhound," probably comes from "blooded" - meaning a hound of pure breeding. In French-speaking parts of Europe Bloodhounds are still known as St. Hubert hounds.¹

Bloodhounds are primarily trailing dogs that follow the scent of a particular person from a place the person was to where he / she is. When working, Bloodhounds may use the scent left by a person - - in footprints, on the bushes, walls, doorways or anywhere scent has settled. In addition the dogs use the airborne scent carried from the person as air scenting dogs do. Generally the older the person's scent trail becomes, the closer the dog stays to the actual trail. An experienced dog can work a fresh trail (less than 8 hours old) enthusiastically and very fast, an older trail (more than 12 hours old) more slowly and deliberately. In the United States, practically all Bloodhounds are worked in a harness attached to a 20-30 foot lead which the handler holds, though some handlers drop the lead and run behind their dog.²

BACKGROUND

Acquired in January 1998 (Resolution No. 74016 C.M.S.) Buddy has been an invaluable part of the OPD investigations teams. Over his years of service, Buddy has tracked missing persons, helped police establish "direction of flight" in assault and robbery investigations, assisted at homicide scenes, and has been a popular ambassador at local elementary schools and at numerous public events.

Crime cases of note where Buddy's scent tracking abilities were put on display include the search for the Joaquin Miller Park "flasher," where Buddy established that the ground scent from three separate incidents all lead to the same parking lot. OPD placed stake out teams at the lot and eventually caught the perpetrator returning to his vehicle from another incident. Buddy and Officer Mahanay also assisted in the investigation of the recent shooting of an Oakland police officer. After Buddy determined a path of flight for the suspect, an explosives trained canine then searched the area established by Buddy and was able to locate the weapon used in the shooting.

In 2003, Buddy and Officer Mahanay assisted in over 25 missing persons investigations, more than a dozen other crime scene searches, including three suspected serial sexual assault scenes. Their assistance was also requested by other local law enforcement agencies to aid in the search of missing persons.

¹ American Bloodhound Club web-site, <http://www.bloodhounds.org>

² Bloodhounds: An Underutilized Resource, Ann Brooke Hold, D.V.M., June 1994

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The upcoming retirement of police canine Buddy, necessitates the purchase of a replacement dog. Due to the success of Buddy during his tenure with the Police Department, the Special Victims Section plans to add an additional "scent tracking" dog to its canine corps.

Having two Bloodhounds will enhance the Department's ability to assist in the investigation of sexual assault and violent felony suspects, as well as missing children and Alzheimer's patients, and other persons who have gone astray.

Officer Patrick Mahanay, Buddy's handler, does not plan to continue as a member of the canine squad, which will necessitate the internal recruitment and training of a new officer, plus an additional officer for the second Bloodhound, as canine handlers.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic

Food, veterinary care, training and miscellaneous supplies for the Section's bloodhounds are purchased locally.

Environmental

There are not environmental impacts related to the Bloodhounds

Equity

Oakland's Special Victims Section bloodhound police officers are an approachable law-enforcement presence who concentrate their efforts towards the search and recovery of missing children and other persons, as well as the identification of serious felony and serial crimes suspects. These dogs have a natural detection system, which enables them to locate persons and evidence days after a person has gone missing or a crime has been committed. They are often sought after to attend community events.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

There are no ADA or senior citizen access issues related to this report.

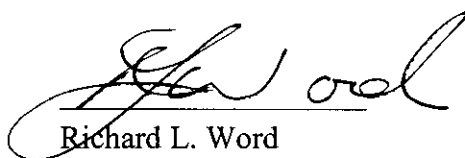
RECOMMENDATION

Accept this report and approve the proposed resolution authorizing the City Administrator or her designee to accept and appropriate a minimum of \$2,075 to the Oakland Police Department for

Item: 3
Public Safety Comte.
June 22, 2004

the acquisition of two bloodhounds, valued at approximately \$400 each, for a total cost of approximately \$800, for use by the Police Department Special Victims Section, with the remainder of the funds to be used to offset handler training costs and the purchase of supplemental supplies and/or services for the dogs.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Word
Chief of Police

Prepared by: Lt. Michael Yoell,
Special Victims Section, BOI, and
Bill Uber, Admin & Tech Services Division,
Bureau of Services

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Administrator



OAKLAND POLICE

Officer Patrick Mahanay and his bloodhound, Buddy, have worked many cases together since January 1998, but Buddy will retire soon.

CINDY MAHANAY

A 'Buddy' to Oakland cops nears retirement

■ Officers seek funds to replace the scent-tracking bloodhound

By Cecily Burt **TRIBUNE** 3-23-04
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — The Oakland Police Department has 20 different dogs specializing in all kinds of cases, from running down suspects to detecting drugs and explosives.

But when it comes to sniffing out clues for missing children, or trying to track down a suspect's last whereabouts, one canine in particular gets the call.

That would be Buddy. A drooling, droopy-eyed bloodhound. Badge No. 35.

After six years of doggedly determined service, Buddy is getting close to retirement age, said his owner and handler, Officer Patrick Mahanay. Buddy won't retire for some months yet, but the police department is raising money to buy another bloodhound or two now so they have enough time to train the dogs' new handlers before Buddy leaves the force.

That's right. The handlers need the training, not so much the dogs, said Mahanay, who speaks from personal experience.

"(Buddy) knew what he was doing. The training is for the handler, to recognize the signs from the dog, to know if you are get-

ting closer, or getting off the track, or whatever," Mahanay said.

Lt. Kevin Wiley first got the idea for bringing a bloodhound to the Oakland Police Department to assist with missing persons cases in 1997, after seeing a demonstration of the breeds' prowess and hearing about a bloodhound who in 1993 had tracked an abducted 5-year-old girl's scent for 14 miles before collapsing, just 100 yards from the child's lifeless body.

Wiley asked Mahanay, who had recently joined the missing persons unit, if he liked dogs. In September 1997, Mahanay pur-

Please see **DOG**, Local 4

Buddy has tracked down a robber

► **DOG**, from Local 1

chased a puppy from a breeder in Kansas and set about training him with help from the Alameda Police Department. In January 1998, he pitched the idea to then-Oakland Police Chief Joseph Samuels.

Mahanay said the whole idea wasn't a hard sell, to him or the department, especially after he saw what the dogs could do, and how one might help solve cases.

"Scent is something that everybody leaves behind at a crime scene," Mahanay said. "A person may not leave fingerprints or other (clues), but they'll always leave their smell."

Bloodhounds are bred as hunting and tracking dogs, and their sense of smell is significantly greater than that of German shepherds or other breeds normally used for police work.

Buddy started out with missing kids and senior citizens, then graduated to crime scenes after Mahanay got more adept at reading his signals. Buddy helped police nab a flasher in Joaquin Miller Park by tracking his scent to the spot where he always returned after a flashing episode. Buddy also helped track a suspect involved in a Brinks armored car robbery and in a

recent officer-involved shooting.

Although Mahanay will help with the initial training, he won't team up with a new dog. Handlers have to be able to follow wherever the dog's nose takes him, and that could be miles.

Like Buddy, Mahanay said he's slowing down a little too much for that. Bloodhounds have an average life span of six to eight years, and Buddy will be 7 in May. Although he'll miss the calls, Mahanay said he is forced to face the inevitable.

"For me, seven years is a long time," he said. "Buddy has been a great companion. I'm getting a little older. Chasing the dogs around, I'll leave that for the younger guys. Buddy was a great companion."

After retirement, Buddy will continue to live with Mahanay and his family, which includes a couple of cats, a couple of fish and a 40-pound Shih Tzu named Bubbles.

"They get along great," Mahanay said. Buddy may weigh 116 pounds, but "the Shih Tzu is the boss."

Bloodhounds cost anywhere from \$500 to \$1,500, and OPD is shopping around for the "best price for the best nose."

Hannah James, co-chair of the Highland Neighborhood

Crime Prevention Council, loves Buddy and is leading the charge to raise enough money for his replacement, which she has named "Buck," even though the new dog and its gender hasn't been established.

"Animals, No. 1 you can count on 'em, they are loyal," she said. "What's not to love about a bloodhound? And wait until the puppy comes on board, you'll just die. Their ears are long and their noses are down to the ground, plus what they do, the search and rescue, the (good) stuff."

"Plus, we put our money down and we know what we are getting," she said.

Bill Uber, an OPD management assistant, has about \$600 pledged so far. He will hold the checks pending approval by the Oakland City Council to collect money for a new dog, he said. He doesn't anticipate a rejection.

"We can't accept anything without City Council approval, but we don't look gift dogs — or horses — in the mouth," he said, tongue in cheek. "Buddy deserves retirement."

To donate to Buddy's retirement fund and help pay for one or more new bloodhound puppies and veterinarian bills, send checks to: Bill Uber, Oakland Police Department, 455 7th St., seventh floor, Oakland 94607, memo: Canine Unit Contribution.

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality
FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CARRIERS
City Attorney

RESOLUTION No. _____

2004 JUN 10 PM 4:44
C.M.S.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OR HER DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A DONATION IN THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$2,075) TO THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF TWO BLOODHOUNDS, VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$400) EACH, FOR A TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$800), FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL VICTIMS SECTION, WITH ANY REMAINING FUNDS TO BE USED TO OFFSET HANDLER TRAINING COSTS AND THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPLIES AND/OR SERVICES

WHEREAS, local citizens and community groups have donated \$2,075 to a designated fund for the purpose of purchasing two Bloodhounds; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department needs to purchase and train two Bloodhounds for the purpose of conducting missing children / persons searches and to assist in the tracking of serious felony and serial suspects; and

WHEREAS, one of the Bloodhounds will be replacing a Bloodhound named Buddy, who is retiring after over seven years of exemplary service to the Oakland community; and

WHEREAS, these generous contributions will provide scent tracking dogs which are needed by the Police Department Special Victims Section, but which is not otherwise budgeted; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council authorizes the City Administrator or her designee to accept the donation of a minimum of \$2,075 from generous citizens and businesses; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the money shall be appropriated to the Police Department in Fund: 1010, Org. 102434, Account 48714, in Project No. P51800, for the express purpose of purchasing two Bloodhounds, at a cost of approximately \$400 each, for a total cost of approximately \$800, for use by the Police Department's Special Victims Section; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That approximately \$1,200 of the donated monies shall be used for training the officer handlers and their dogs; and be it

3
PUBLIC SAFETY CMTE.
JUN 22 2004

FURTHER RESOLVED: That any subsequent donations received which are specifically earmarked for the "Buddy the Bloodhound Retirement Fund," or words to that effect, may be accepted without return to City Council ; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That any monies remaining after acquisition of the Bloodhounds and after the training needs of the Bloodhound teams are met shall be used for the purpose of supplemental supplies and/or services needed for the health and safety of the Bloodhounds; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Oakland does hereby offer its thanks and gratitude to the various contributors for their generous donations to and support of the Oakland Police Department.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

3
PUBLIC SAFETY CMTE.

JUN 22 2004

ATTEST: _____

CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California