

Subject: Declare Police Canine (Cecil) as Surplus

Meeting Date: March 23, 2026	
Submitted/Presented by/Department: Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police	
Action Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Action	
Declare Police Canine Cecil as surplus and authorize the sale of the dog to Officer Murphy for \$1.00.	
Background	
<p>Officer Nicole Murphy has been employed with the department since January 2018 and has served as a canine handler for over six years with her partner, Cecil. Officer Murphy has made the decision to pursue a career change and has submitted her resignation, effective March 27.</p> <p>Cecil is over six years old. Retraining him with a new handler would not be cost-effective, as the typical service life of a police canine is approximately eight to ten years. The costs associated with acquiring and training police canines, along with ongoing expenses, have historically been supported through donations and, more recently, through the support of the West St. Paul Police Canine Foundation.</p> <p>It is standard practice that upon retirement, a police canine is declared surplus property, and ownership is transferred to the handler, who then assumes full responsibility for the animal's care.</p> <p>Officer Murphy has requested to take ownership of Cecil. Staff recommends that the City Council declare Cecil as surplus property and approve the transfer of ownership to Officer Murphy for the sum of \$1.00, consistent with past practice.</p>	
Attachments	
Resolution	
Previous Relevant Actions	
Council has previously approved this action with other canines that have retired.	
Alternatives	
Not approve the resolution and have discussion on alternatives to Cecil's future.	

Subject: Declare Police Canine (Cecil) as Surplus

Financial	
Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No Financial Impact
Fund: 101	
Department: 42100	
Account: 40455	
Amount: Plus \$1.00	