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(213) 202-2633 FAX (213) 202-2614

June 17, 2021

Honorable City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
c/o: Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members of the City Council:

Subject:

Retirement of Park Ranger Division Mounted Unit Horse and Donation of the Horse to Private Citizen

Recommendation for Council Action:

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) respectfully requests City Council; (i) approve the retirement of “Smokey” from City service and grant permission to donate this horse to Monica Gilchrist, a private citizen and owner of Gilchrist Farm, so that he may live out the remainder of his life under the care of an experienced equestrian; and (ii) find that “Smokey” is surplus City equipment eligible for donation under Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) 22.547.

Background:

Smokey is a 20-year-old Tennessee Walker gelding that has been with the Park Ranger Division since 2013. During the past eight years with the division, he has participated in numerous public events and regularly patrolled the trails of our City Parks. Over the past year, Smokey has begun to experience medical issues that prohibit him from participating in the work required of a service animal. While RAP honors Smokey’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 Smokey be donated as surplus City equipment to Monica Gilchrist, a private citizen and owner of Gilchrist Farm, 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.

Fiscal Impact Statement:

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.



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If you have any questions with regard to this matter, please contact Mr. Adam Dedeaux, Mounted Unit Supervisor, at (323) 644-6661.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF RECREATION AND  
PARK COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Arrivillaga", is centered below the title.

HAROLD ARRIVILLAGA  
Commission Executive Assistant II

Attachment: Board Report No. 21-107

cc: Adam Dedeaux, Mounted Unit Supervisor, Park Ranger Division, Special Operations  
Branch