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COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE PROPOSES LIFELONG BENEFITS FOR RETIRED POLICE DOGS *Recommendations include Veterinary, Dental, and End of Life Care for SDPD's Faithful Public Servants*

San Diego, CA: Established in 1984, the San Diego Police Department's (SDPD) K-9 Unit is utilized for non-lethal apprehension, de-escalation, detection, search and rescue. There are currently 36 SDPD K-9s with dog breeds including Belgian Malinois, German Shepherds, Dutch Shepherds, and Labradors. The SDPD K-9 Unit has been recognized as one of the best teams in the nation. The police dogs are requested for instances such as burglary, robbery, or vehicle pursuits. The dogs are responsible for clearing areas before uniformed, human officers approach the suspect. K-9s are valuable tools that can be recalled.

The [San Diego Police Canine Association](#) is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to offset the costs of the retired police dog. The San Diego Police Department's Canine Unit Operation Manual (section 4.14) specifies retirement procedures, but current policy requires ongoing medical care and expenses for the retired K-9s borne by the adopting handler. The police dog is an athlete. Like all athletes, over time, the activities take a toll on the body. When a police dog retires, they often require extensive medical attention over a long period of time. This is usually much more than your average pet. Dental care alone can be thousands of dollars. The San Diego Police Canine Association is committed to giving our retired canines the quality retirement they deserve.

"I am requesting a cost analysis for providing lifelong maintenance, veterinary care, and benefits for retired San Diego Police Department K-9s. These dogs are faithful public servants, and countless lives have been saved and preserved due to their efforts," stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

WHAT: Press Conference

WHERE: San Diego Police Department – Northeastern Division (Parking Lot)
13396 Salmon River Road, San Diego, CA 92129

WHEN: Friday, July 23, 2021 at 12:30 p.m.

VISUALS: San Diego City Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6
San Diego Police Department K-9s (active & retired) and handlers
(Following the press conference there will be K-9 demonstrations across the street at the dog park.)

[Website](#) | [NextDoor](#)

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