

TIMOTHY B. HOWARD
SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

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PS

March 12, 2012

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Erie County Sheriff's Office – K9 Retirement

Honorable Members:

Attached please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Erie County Sheriff's Office requesting authorization to allow Correction Officer Randy Ratajcek (canine Rocky) to keep his K-9 partner, upon the canine's retirement on April 1, 2012.

I kindly request the Erie County Legislature consider and approve the resolution at its earliest possible session. If your Honorable Body requires any further information, kindly contact the Sheriff's Office and we will be happy to accommodate your request.

Very truly yours,

TIMOTHY B. HOWARD
SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

Attachments

5E-11

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RE: Erie County Sheriff's Office - K9 Retirement

WHEREAS, Correction Officer Randy Ratajczak's partner Rocky was purchased in the year 2003 with seized asset funds and was trained in drug detection with Officer Ratajczak as his handler exclusively since that date; and

WHEREAS, he is now nine (9) years old and given the extended length of time that Rocky has been assigned to one handler it would not be possible to reassign him to another handler, therefore ending his ability to function as a drug detection K-9; and

WHEREAS, Correction Officer Randy Ratajczak has agreed to sign an agreement to assume full responsibility for said dog and to hold the County of Erie/Erie County Sheriff's Office harmless against any and all liability; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office conferred with the Comptroller's Office and the County Attorney to determine that by Legislative Resolution the transfer of ownership could occur.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that at the time of the K-9's retirement, his long time handler will be allowed to retain possession of his K-9 partner, Rocky; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Office of the Sheriff is hereby authorized to enter into purchase agreement with Correction Officer Ratajczak for the consideration of one (1) dollar for the transfer of ownership of Rocky. Correction Officer Ratajczak shall assume full responsibility for the dog under such agreement and shall further hold the County of Erie and Erie County Sheriff's Office harmless against any and all liability; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that certified copies be forwarded to the Erie County Comptroller, the County Attorney and the Office of the Sheriff for implementation.

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

RE: Erie County Sheriff's Office - K9 Retirement

I. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The attached resolution requests authorization to allow Correction Officer Randy Ratajczak to maintain possession of his K-9 partner, Rocky upon the K-9's retirement from duty on April 1, 2012.

II. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSAL

No fiscal effect on County Funds. The Sheriff's Office Seized Asset Account was used to fund the K-9 purchase.

III. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

Correction Officer Ratajczak has trained and cared for Rocky for nine years. Rocky's productivity is falling off with age, diminishing his value to the County.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The County would be obligated to pay for the costs of keeping Rocky kenneled until an alternative transfer of ownership can be accomplished.

V. STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF MEASURE

Certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Comptroller, the County Attorney and the Office of the Sheriff for implementation.