

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 05/10/22

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 22-0350

LOG NAME: 35FY22 DONATION MOUNTED PATROL PROJECT

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Acceptance of a Monetary Donation in an Amount Up to \$50,000.00 from the Mounted Patrol Citizens Support Group for Mounted Patrol Facility Improvements, Adopt Attached Appropriation Ordinance, and Amend the Fiscal Years 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Accept a monetary donation in an amount up to \$50,000.00 from Mounted Patrol Citizens Support Group;
 2. Adopt attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Special Donations Capital Projects Fund in an amount up to \$50,000.00, from revenues received from the Mounted Patrol Citizens Support Group, for the purpose of funding Mounted Patrol facility improvements (City Project No. 104077); and
 3. Amend the Fiscal Years 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to request authorization to accept a monetary donation in an amount up to \$50,000.00 from the Mounted Patrol Citizens Support Group for use by Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD) Mounted Patrol to fund facility improvements to the outdoor runs connected to each of the horse stalls.

The Mounted Patrol Citizens Support Group, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was established by citizens and local business leaders in support of the FWPD Mounted Patrol Unit. This group has continued to show their support by providing several horses to the unit, horse trailers, and other various items over the years. In addition to providing horses and equipment, the support group was instrumental in the building of a world class equestrian facility that serves as the home base for Mounted Patrol. The support group further assisted the Mounted Patrol unit by adding a large, open air, covered training arena to the facility to provide a controlled environment for horse and rider training. The support group is a powerful example of civic stewardship that continues to provide critical equipment to the FWPD Mounted Patrol Unit.

Acceptance of this donation will allow for much needed renovations to the outdoor runs connected to each of the Mounted Patrol Unit's horse stalls. There are 26 stalls and each one has an outdoor "run" where the horses can walk around, get fresh air, and do their biological business. These runs are served by a drain system so that when it rains, the rain water is supposed to drain into a common sewer drain that empties into a main water collection area. Over time, with regular horse traffic, the soil underneath the runs has become compacted and is no longer able to drain the water effectively. This results in the runs becoming muddy and holding water for several days which breeds mosquitos and harmful bacteria and fungus. This poses a health hazard to both the horses and the mounted patrol officers and community workers who clean the stalls and runs. In 2021, Mounted Patrol requested that the Parks & Recreation Department (PARC) assist in finding a solution. PARC suggested a comprehensive overhaul of each run involving removal of subsoils down to the drain pipe, backfilling with gravel rock, fabric, and better draining soil, and regrading of the surface with sand. PARC completed a pilot program on two runs and the result was successful. The two runs they repaired have been through several heavy rain storms and have performed very well in draining the water. This donation will provide needed funding to complete the same renovation on the remaining 24 runs.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be deposited into the Special Donations Cap Projects Fund. The Police Department (and Financial Management Services) is responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to any expense being incurred, the Police Department also has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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