



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Edgardo Garcia

**SUBJECT: HORSE STABLES FACILITY
AND LANDSCAPE
MAINTENANCE**

DATE: May 23, 2018

Approved

Date

5-24-18

BACKGROUND

This memorandum provides the additional information requested by Councilmember Peralez during the Public Safety CSA portion of the May 10, 2018 Study Session on the 2018-2019 Proposed Operating Budget regarding the facility maintenance needs of the Police Department's Horse Mounted Unit (HMU). The Administration has proposed to decommission the HMU effective August 1, 2018, as explained in the 2018-2019 Proposed Operating Budget on page VIII-287¹.

The Horse Mounted Unit site is on City property, bounded by the Tully Community Ballfields and Branch Library, Coyote Creek, and Stonegate Skate Park, and is approximately 6.8 acres. Since the HMU has not been operational since 2012, there is no operational impact in closing the unit at this time. In addition to preserving the stables for future restoration of HMU, the facility continues to be essential for the operational capabilities of several Police Special Operations Units including Mobile Emergency Response Group and Equipment Unit (MERGE), Canine, Metro, and Violent Crime Enforcement Team (VCET), as well as Field Patrol. It should be noted that the MERGE Unit is one of the few full-time SWAT teams in the state and abides by the industry standard of 25% training time and 75% operational time. They conduct a tremendous amount of training at this facility. The training facility is often utilized by other Department units as well Field Patrol personnel.

The facility includes a force-on-force training platform known as a Simunitions House (Sim-house). The Sim-house is a completely enclosed simulated residence that allows the staff to conduct tactical training. The scenario-based training made possible by the Sim-house is a best practice for tactical teams and allows the Department to maintain a high level of tactical proficiency. The facility is home to a retired school bus and two retired police vehicles, which the Department utilizes to train in various tactics. The training facility is also home to an obstacle course (O-course). The O-course is a requirement for the MERGE Unit, and is also utilized by the VCET, Metro, and Canine units to maintain the high standard of physical fitness required to work

¹ Link to 2018-2019 Proposed Operating Budget: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/77481>

in these units. The facility also includes a canine training field with seating, an overhang, and lighting. This field allows for a secure, safe environment for canine handlers to train on apprehensions, obedience, tracking/trailing, and article searching for items such as weapons. The training facility contains several dog kennels that can provide temporary storage of police service dogs.

ANALYSIS

While the budget proposal eliminated resources related to HMU, utilities and custodial services were retained. Currently, there are custodial services twice a week to clean the office, both restrooms, locker rooms, break rooms, and the training room. These services are expected to continue and funds from the Public Works Department are budgeted for this cost. Public Works will also continue to provide preventative maintenance for the facility for things such as smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler system, and furnace, and respond to repairs/service requests, as needed.

In the past, maintenance of the landscape was primarily performed by the Weekend Work Program, under the supervision of Police personnel. The proposal to decommission the HMU assumed the continuation of this approach to landscape maintenance, even with the August 2018 elimination of the Maintenance Worker position. The Police Department will continue to monitor the efficacy of this approach during 2018-2019. If necessary, the Police Department may need to coordinate with the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department to leverage the resources of their citywide landscape maintenance contract, which already helps maintain landscapes of the surrounding facilities and at sites such as the Fire Department's Training Center. Any additional costs in 2018-2019 would be absorbed by the Police Department and would be reevaluated as part of the 2019-2020 budget development process.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department, the Public Works Department, and the City Manager's Budget Office.

/s/
EDGARDO GARCIA
Chief of Police