

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Dante Elbin, Chief of Police
Date: July 25, 2013
Subject: Request to submit a grant application to K9s4COPs Organization
for a Police Department Service Dog

REQUEST:

The Gautier Police Department requests City Council approval to submit a grant application to the non-profit K9s4COPs organization to replace the department's retiring police service dog.

BACKGROUND:

K9s4COPs is a non-profit organization located in Houston, Texas and was founded in 2010. Their mission is to place exceptionally trained police service dogs with law enforcement agencies through a simple application process. Since gifting their first dog in 2011, the organization has replaced retiring K9s, added to existing K9 units, and helped start K9 units across the country. Awards are based on an organization's financial capability to care for the police service dog and the level of previous experience using this type of highly trained asset. Awards are announced quarterly at the organization's K9 Roll Call. The Gautier Police Department's current service dog has been operational since October 2007 and is scheduled to be retired within the next six months.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Gautier must certify that the Police Department will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the service dog. If awarded, travel will be required to select and pick up the service dog from the organization's preferred kennel. Quarterly statistics and photos must be sent to the funding organization along with annual health reports.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Police Department recommends that City Council approve submission of a grant application to K9s4COPs for a police service dog to replace the current dog that has reached retirement age.

The City Council may:

1. Approve submission of a grant application as presented;
2. Approve submission of a grant application with changes; or
3. Disapprove submission of this grant application.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Required Letter of Support

*Mayor
Gordon J. Gollott*

*City of Gautier
Gautier, Mississippi*

*City Manager
Samantha D. Abell*

*City Clerk
Cynthia Russell*

*Council
At Large Mary F. Martin
Ward 1 Johnny Jones
Ward 2 Hurley Ray Guillotte
Ward 3 Casey C. Vaughan
Ward 4 Charles "Rusty" Anderson
Ward 5 Adam D. Colledge*



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August 7, 2013

Liz Lara Carreno, Executive Director
K9s4COPs
1210 West Clay St., Unit 9
Houston, TX 77019

Dear Ms. Carreno:

I am writing this letter to support my organization's grant application to receive a police service dog from the K9s4COPs foundation.

I certify that our organization's grant application has been presented to me, and that I am satisfied the statements contained therein are true and correct.

Our organization can provide for the financial expenses of a police service dog and has the equipment and experience necessary for the support and maintenance of our granted dog.

I give the proposed K9s4COPs grant application for a police service dog my fullest support. I sign this letter as an authorized official with the authority to represent my organization and accept liability for all representations made herein.

Please contact me at 228-497-8020 if I can be of any further assistance.

Very truly yours,

Samantha D. Abell, City Manager
City of Gautier, Mississippi