



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

**From:** Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr. Chief of Police

**Date:** June 4, 2018

**Subject:** Consideration to Sell Retired Canine "Duke" to ECPD K-9 Handler Benjamin J. Martin

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***BACKGROUND:***

The Elizabeth City Police Department is announcing the official retirement of K-9 "Duke". He has been a member of the Department since 2013. The decision to retire Duke was based upon Duke's declining health and his inability to effectively perform his law enforcement duties (i.e. searches, tracking, etc.). Duke's age and other specific health concerns were also cited as reasons in reaching this conclusion. K-9 Handler, Officer Benjamin J. Martin, has expressed an interest in purchasing Duke and keep Duke as the family's pet and no longer use him for the administering of police duties.

***ANALYSIS:***

Since February 7, 2017, Officer Benjamin J. Martin, has been assigned to the Department's K-9 Unit. Officer Martin is very familiar with Duke and has been taking care of Duke for the past three months. In addition to the dog's age, the primary reasons for the recommendation to retire, is his declining health. K-9 Duke is eight years old and has been in service with the Department since 2013. K-9 Duke has been treated by Dr. Larry Cooper at the Pasquotank Animal Hospital and his condition includes; heart worms, hip dysplasia, severe joint pain, dislocated right rear hip and advanced arthritis in his left front leg. K-9 Duke is accepted as a family pet and treated as such by Officer Martin and members of his family. For this reason, it is recommended that the City of Elizabeth City surplus the police canine and allow Officer Martin to purchase him and maintain care for him as a family pet.

***FINANCIAL:***

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their June 7, 2018 meeting. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Young, seconded by Councilwoman Hummer, the Committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, approve sale of K-9 "Duke" to K-9 Handler, Officer Benjamin J. Martin, for the amount of \$1.00; and in doing so, surplus the dog and remove from the departmental roster.