

# Memorandum



**Date:** March 01, 2005

**To:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No. 3(O)(18)(A)

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

**Subject:** Retirement of Miami-Dade Police Department Canine Dog and Award to Former Handler

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board, pursuant to the provisions of Section 274.06, Florida Statutes, approve the attached resolution authorizing the retirement and conveyance of Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) Canine Dog Chico and transference of ownership to its former handler, Officer Mehran Sawal. Although this canine has performed in an exemplary manner and provided an invaluable service to the County, it has been determined that the dog can no longer serve in this capacity.

## BACKGROUND

Canine Chico is an 8½ year-old German Shepherd who was assigned to the Miami-Dade Police Department Canine Unit on April 1, 1999. During his career, Canine Chico apprehended 107 subjects, conducted approximately 50 searches, and participated in over 100 public demonstrations. However, at this time the dog is being recommended for retirement due to deteriorating health conditions.

Canine Chico was examined by Miami-Dade County Veterinarian, Dr. Sandy Springer, who observed Chico dragging his hind paws, unable to jump into a truck and having difficulty entering a squad car. Chico also has significant hind limb atrophy of the muscles, which is consistent with a degenerative neuropathy of German Shepherd dogs. This condition has no treatment and only worsens with passing time. A tumor biopsy also revealed joint capsule cancer on his left hind foot. With this canine's disease progression, it is Dr. Springer's recommendation that he be retired from active duty.

It is in the best interest of MDPD that the dog be retired and donated to his former handler. The handler will care for this dog, as a pet, for the rest of his natural life. Pending final disposition, Officer Mehran Sawal has signed a waiver form releasing the County from any and all liability on behalf of this canine.

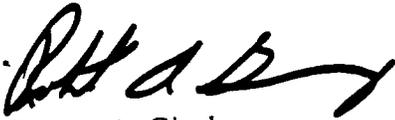
Susanne M. Torriente  
Assistant County Manager



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** March 1, 2005

**FROM:**   
Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 3(O)(18)(A)

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 3(O)(18)(A)  
03-01-05

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DONATION OF A MIAMI-DADE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE DOG TO THE FORMER  
HANDLER; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONVEYANCE  
DOCUMENT BY COUNTY MANAGER

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 274.06, Florida Statutes, approves the conveyance of a dog, all as set forth in the attached memorandum of the County Manager; and this Board having determined to its satisfaction that the use to which the dog will be put is appropriate, and that the described dog cannot be used by Miami-Dade County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute such conveyance document as may be appropriate to transfer title of the described dog from Miami-Dade County.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman  
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro  
Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Sally A. Heyman  
Dorrin D. Rolle  
Katy Sorenson  
Sen. Javier D. Souto

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler  
Carlos A. Gimenez  
Barbara J. Jordan  
Natacha Seijas  
Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2005. This Resolution and contract, if not vetoed, shall become effective in accordance with Resolution No. R-377-04.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency. K.B.D.

Kenneth B. Drucker

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk



# Miami-Dade Police Department

Director's Office



An Internationally Accredited Police Service

## RELEASE

**In consideration for the award of Canine Chico to my custody after approval of a Resolution, by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, Florida, I hereby agree to assume full control of and responsibility for the care and custody of Canine Chico and agree to hold harmless and fully indemnify Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade Police Department, and their employees, officers and agents for any acts of Canine Chico.**

**In the event that Canine Chico is conveyed to me by Miami-Dade County, Florida, I agree to accept full responsibility and liability for Canine Chico, and will hold harmless and fully indemnify Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade Police Department, and their employees, officers and agents for any acts by Canine Chico.**

MEHRON SAWAL

**Print Name**

*MS*

**Signature**

12/29/2004

**Date**

Allen Cockfield

**Witness (Print Name)**

*Allen Cockfield*

**Signature**

12/29/2004

**Date**

Douglas L. Stewart

**Witness (Print Name)**

*Douglas L. Stewart*

**Signature**

12/29/2004

**Date**

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Dr. Neil B. Tenzer  
Diplomate, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners  
Certified, Companion Animals

Michael Elpert, DVM  
Canine / Feline Medicine & Surgery

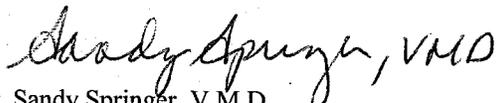
December 28, 2004

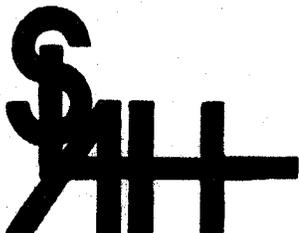
Re: "Chico" 8 1/2 year old intact male German Shepherd-handled by Officer Mehron Sawal of the Metro Police Department.

Attn. Sergeant Cockfield:

I examined Chico today, December 28, 2004. Chico has been dragging his hind paws, been unable to jump into a truck, hits his legs on the edge of the car when entering the squad car, and has significant hind limb atrophy of the muscles. These signs are consistent with a degenerative neuropathy of German Shepherd Dogs. This condition has no treatment and only worsens with passing time. A 13-week training course, and the routine performance of his duties will accelerate his condition. Chico also has a pending tumor biopsy which I feel will reveal joint capsule cancer on his left hind foot, further making work impossible for him. With Chico's disease progression, it is my recommendation that he be retired from active duty.

Yours,

  
Dr. Sandy Springer, V.M.D.



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NOAH'S • SKY LAKE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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