

# Memorandum



**Date:** October 19, 2004

**To:** Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D. 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 Canine Dog Joyce and transference of ownership to its former handler, Officer Scott Silvia. 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 Joyce is a 9-year-old Sable Wolf German shepherd who was assigned to the Miami-Dade Police Department Narcotics Bureau Canine Unit in August 1996. During her career, Canine Joyce conducted over 14,000 searches and was responsible for more than 2,400 kilos in seized narcotics. However, at this time the dog is being recommended for retirement due to deteriorating health conditions.

Canine Joyce was examined by Miami-Dade County Veterinarian, Dr. Neil B. Tenzer, who observed signs of back and leg pain and diagnosed the dog with spinal cord disease. Dr. Tenzer believes that the disease will continue to progress and continued activity at the level required of a working dog would accelerate her deterioration. For these reasons, Dr. Tenzer recommends that the canine be retired from active duty.

It is in the best interest of the Miami-Dade Police Department that the dog be retired and donated to her former handler. The handler will care for this dog, as a pet, for the rest of her natural life. Pending final disposition, Officer Silvia 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:** Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** October 19, 2004

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 3(0)(18)(1)

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

Agenda Item No. 3(0)(18)(A)

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

10-19-04

Override \_\_\_\_\_

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 the vote was as follows:

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson  
Katy Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson

Bruno A. Barreiro  
Betty T. Ferguson  
Joe A. Martinez  
Dennis C. Moss  
Natacha Seijas  
Sen. Javier D. Souto

Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Sally A. Heyman  
Jimmy L. Morales  
Dorrin D. Rolle  
Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2004. 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

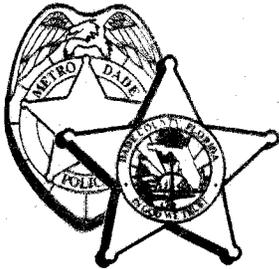
Approved by County Attorney as nan  
to form and legal sufficiency. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Kenneth B. Drucker

Metro-Dade Police  
Department

Director's Office  
9105 N.W. 25th Street  
Miami, Florida 33172



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Police Service

**RELEASE**

In consideration for the award of Canine Joyce 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 Joyce 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 Joyce.

In the event that Canine Joyce is conveyed to me by Miami-Dade County, Florida, I agree to accept full responsibility and liability for Canine Joyce, 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 Joyce.

<u>SCOTT SILVIA</u> Print Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature	<u>6/16/04</u> Date
<u>KIMET POMES</u> Witness (Print Name)	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature	<u>6/16/04</u> Date
<u>ROBERT LUCASIAS</u> Witness (Print Name)	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature	<u>6/16/04</u> 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

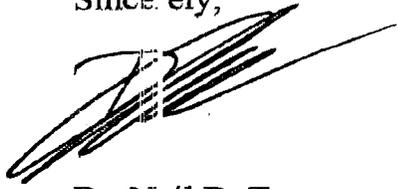
June 8, 2004

Re: "Joyce" nine year old spayed female German Shepherd—handled by  
Officer Scott Silvia of the Narcotics unit of the Metro Dade Police  
Department.

To Whom It May Concern:

Joyce has, for the past three years, shown signs of back and leg pain. Anti-inflammatory and analgesic medications have been prescribed to alleviate her discomfort. Due to the progression of signs (which consist of, walking slow, reluctant to search, pain on abduction of right leg, and extension of back) Joyce was referred in December 2003 to Dr. James Cook, a board certified neurologist. His evaluation considered spinal cord disease as the source of her discomfort. With Joyce's continued disease progression it is my recommendation that she be retired from active duty to prevent the acceleration of her symptoms. Should you have further questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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

