



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager

DATE: December 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Response to Ordinance 20200814-001 Budget Rider 13 – Austin Police Department Mounted Unit & Interdiction K9 Unit

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The purpose of this memo is to provide a response to subject FY 2021 budget rider, which directed the City Manager to explore the proper use of animals in police work in the context of the overarching reimagining public safety initiative and include input from stakeholders in our communities.

As a part of the overall [Reimagining Public Safety Initiative](#), staff worked with the Reimagining Public Safety City-Community Task Force that advanced [recommendations](#) to reimagine public safety, which included exploring new approaches to Mounted Patrol and the K9 Unit. My October 1, 2021 [memo](#) highlighted this work that include tasking the Police Chief to continue staff analysis of the recommendations provided by the Patrol & Surveillance/Patrol & Criminal Investigation work group, and to collaborate with community stakeholders to implement change in these areas. City staff will continue to explore innovative strategies for implementing additional RPS Task Force recommendations beyond the FY 2022 budget.

Action regarding Budget Rider 13 will be closed out for administrative purposes. Its direction will be carried over and reported within the RPS initiative.

Please contact me should you have questions or require additional information.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
CMO Executive Team  
Chief Joseph Chacon, Austin Police Chief