



Item No. 7 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – STUDY SESSION (REPORT #1)

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

FROM: STEVE McCULLEY, CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: JANUARY 13, 2021

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ADD A SPECIALITY ASSIGNMENT -
TRAFFIC AND MOTOR SERGEANT**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the addition of a Traffic and Motor Sergeant Specialty Assignment.

BACKGROUND

In the early 2000's, the Atherton Police Department had four sworn personnel in the traffic unit. That unit consisted of 3 motor officers and a traffic sergeant. At that time, the traffic sergeant worked weekday dayshift, and was able to manage the traffic program while having regular interaction with each motor officer. Having a supervisor on the motorcycle meant an additional motorcycle in Town and improved the Police Department's visibility in more of the regular traffic complaint areas.

On or about 2007, this traffic unit was reduced to two officers when the motor sergeant retired and one of the motor officers completed his assignment. At the time, no full time staff expressed interest in filling either of the two open positions. Since then the traffic unit has consisted of two full time motor officers and a motors reserve officer.

ANALYSIS

The current traffic supervisor has extensive experience as a motor officer and has completed the highest level of traffic collision school of anyone in the department. This supervisor has handled multiple fatality collisions and been one of the most active traffic enforcement officers in the entire department.

For the first time since 2007, the Police Department has the ability to have a traffic supervisor work directly with the other motor officers in the field. From a supervisory standpoint, a traffic sergeant who rides a motorcycle and is in the field with the motor officers will have a much better grasp on traffic related issues during the shift. The addition of another motorcycle and motor

officer ensures motorcycle coverage for the Town when motor officers are on vacation, using sick time or are away at training.

From a financial perspective, the timing of this proposal is also commensurate with a resident donation of \$45,000 to pay for the cost of an additional police motorcycle.

POLICY FOCUS

One of the main complaints received by the police department is speeding traffic and other traffic concerns. A large majority of these complaints are related to the high volume of cut through traffic in town. The Town is in the process of a comprehensive traffic management study. Community meetings were recent conducted as part of this study. A very common theme of resident complaint was speeding traffic, cut through traffic, and the need and desire for more proactive traffic law enforcement. The establishment of the traffic sergeant specialty assignment adds the level of resources needed for the police department to respond to these complaints and concerns.

FISCAL IMPACT

The step E salary for the Sergeant position is \$13,287. The specialty pay incentive for the motor officer position is 5% as outlined in the current Atherton Police Officers' Association Memorandum of Understanding. This is an increase of \$664 to the Step E of the sergeant salary. The total monthly cost for the specialty position is \$13,951 per year. The annual fiscal year cost is \$7,968. Additionally there will be nominal fiscal impacts for fuel and maintenance of the additional motorcycle to the fleet.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders – to include, but not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

This item ___ has or X has not been before a Town Committee or Commission.

- Audit/Finance Committee (meets every other month)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (meets as needed)
- Civic Center Advisory Committee (meets as needed)
- Environmental Programs Committee (meets every other month)
- Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)
- Planning Commission (meets each month)
- Rail Committee (meets every other month)
- Transportation Committee (meets every other month)
- Tree Committee (meets each month)

ATTACHMENTS

None.