

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:** \* Authorize the Police Bureau to donate eight horses and equipment from the Mounted Patrol Unit (Ordinance)

**Contact name:** Veronica Nordeen, PPB Fiscal – Grants

**Contact phone:** 503-823-0331

**Presenter name:** Sgt. Martin Schell, MPU; Commander Kelli Sheffer, Central Precinct; Assistant Chief Chris Davis – Services Branch; and Senior Business Operations Manager Catherine Reiland, PPB Fiscal Services Division

**Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

To authorize the donation of the eight Bureau Mounted Patrol Unit (MPU) horses and their equipment and supplies in accordance with PCC 5.36.010(D)(5).

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

There are no financial or budgetary impacts. The FY 2017-18 Adopted Budget does not contain line items for the horses, stable attendants, or equine-related expenses.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

The loss of MPU will have a significant impact on bureau engagement with the community and business partners. The unit has been reduced over the past ten years, which has impacted its mission: A positive community engagement and presence in the downtown city core. In the past, MPU dedicated time for relationship building, positive community engagement activities (both on patrol and with visiting groups to the horse barn), and self-initiated patrol work.

When fully staffed, the MPU reported approximately 1,530 citizen interactions and 400 business interactions per month, yielding an annual total of approximately 30,000 positive contacts. These figures are prior to MPU's staff reductions to redirect resources to general patrol operations. Without MPU in place it is expected that the majority of these contacts/engagement opportunities will no longer occur, as evidenced with the current configuration of the MPU in FY 2016-17. It is difficult to say what bureau-wide performance measures will be directly impacted; potentially, survey results on the perception of safety or the number of self-initiated calls may decrease. Measuring and reporting on community engagement with the police is one of the tasks the bureau is currently undertaking as part of the requirements of the settlement agreement with the Department of Justice. Without this unit, the bureau will have one less option for engagement in the coming years.

This reduction will impact members of the downtown business districts, visitors to downtown Portland, and the potential for the MPU to fulfill the role of bureau ambassador during numerous public events (parades, festivals, Portland Timbers and Thorns games, and other community athletic events). The MPU attended 56 such events in the past year. The former MPU horse barn was frequented by schools, senior care homes, and general visitors who will no longer have this opportunity to voluntarily interact with the Portland Police Bureau if there isn't a suitable central location for the unit to operate. Multnomah County and the horses' former owners will be contacted to determine the best possible new home for each horse.

**Budgetary Impact Worksheet**

**Does this action change appropriations?**

- YES: Please complete the information below.  
 NO: Skip this section