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APPROVED  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

AUG 7 1997

DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

900 - 8TH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2599

ARTURO VENEGAS, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE

A697-125

PH 916-264-5121  
FAX 916-448-4620  
E-MAIL  
spdcou@quiknet.com  
http://  
www.quiknet.com/spd/

July 15, 1997

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL OF SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S AIR OPERATIONS UNIT OPERATIONAL PLAN AND APPROVAL OF AN AVIATION MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** City-wide

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report recommends the City Council approve the Police Department's Operational Plan for the Air Operations Unit, including authorizing the Police Department to enter into a maintenance agreement with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$75,000.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Lieutenant Brian Louie 277-6069

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** August 7, 1997

**SUMMARY:**

This report recommends the City Council approve the attached agreement and operational plan allowing partial consolidation between the Sacramento Police Department Helicopter Unit with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Helicopter Unit. The partial consolidation of management, supervision, training, facilities, utilities, storage, maintenance and fuel systems will reduce costs, maximize safety, and develop a regional approach to each airborne law enforcement program. This agreement will allow the Police Department to safely place into service, one OH-58 Helicopter and store and maintain a second OH-58 Helicopter.

*The mission of the Sacramento Police Department is to work in partnership with the Community to protect life and property; solve neighborhood problems, and enhance the quality of life in our City.*

The Police Department will use the primary helicopter for airborne law enforcement within the City. The use of this helicopter, (serving as a force multiplier), will maximize the police response to crimes in progress, vehicular and pedestrian pursuits, suspect apprehensions, missing person searches, and patrols of areas inaccessible to foot and ground vehicle patrols. It is anticipated that this project will reduce response times, increase arrests and benefit all law enforcement operations.

This project will be financed with funds derived by the Police Department from a previous sale of three surplus helicopters.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:**

None

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Members of the Sacramento Police and Sheriff's Departments developed a plan to partially consolidate both departments' helicopter units. The consolidation will increase the efficiency of both units. The combined unit will be known as the Sacramento Metro Air Support Bureau. The Metro Air Bureau will be located at the Sheriff's Department Air Operations Bureau at Mather Field.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department has had a helicopter program for the past nineteen years. Their program has had a positive impact on law enforcement within the County of Sacramento. The Sheriff's Department is able to help the Police Department with the safe, efficient, and cost-effective development of the Police Department Air Operations Unit.

The Police Department will have access to a long standing aircraft maintenance program, which will cost less than a private sector contractor, that will be available at a service level the Police Department could not obtain. Onsite maintenance facilities and employees are invaluable. The Police Department will reimburse the Sheriff's Department \$75,000 for the costs associated with mechanic services.

Through the combined program, the Police Department will gain unprecedented field training in airborne law enforcement, experienced program oversight, and access to equipment that otherwise would not be available to the City. Cost savings will be realized in the areas of facilities, facility maintenance, utilities etc. The Police unit will obtain aircraft maintenance, storage and fuel at prices significantly below normal costs. For example, the annual fuel costs of a separate SPD unit would be greater than \$50,000. The SPD cost of the same fuel, through the consolidated unit, is projected to be \$23,000, resulting in a \$27,000 savings.

The consolidated helicopter unit will allow for coordinated airborne patrols, training, and maintenance that will enhance the work product of both departments. The Sacramento Police Department Sergeant will act as the supervisor for both the Police and Sheriff units. The Police helicopter will operate from 1700 to 0300 hours, Wednesday through Saturday, or Thursday through Sunday, depending on Police Department needs. One Police Officer Pilot and one Police Officer Observer will staff the helicopter. The helicopter will be a force multiplier replacing eight to twelve ground-based officers.

Meetings have been held with the public, our officers and dispatchers. These meetings have focused on the capabilities of the helicopter, tactical considerations, and other training issues. A plan has been developed for dealing with noise complaints and the information has been provided to the public at several community meetings. In summary, all noise complaints will be addressed. The Officers and Supervisor assigned to the helicopter unit will personally speak to the citizen to resolve any complaints. All flights will be within F.A.A. guidelines to minimize noise and maximize safety.

However, the helicopter noise is often beneficial. For example, persons in a residential, or business district will not hear ground based law enforcement at work, on a priority call, in their area. Experience has shown the public does become aware of a helicopter overhead. They often call the law enforcement agency to ask what is occurring in the area. The public then becomes involved with the incident by being the eyes and ears for the police, as they watch their yards and streets. This "eyes and ears" action, as the result of helicopter noise, is how most lost and missing children are located.

Finally, detailed statistics of our work will be maintained. The statistics will include, but are not limited to, the amount of calls, hours flown, arrests, searches, assists, and preventative patrols of schools, parks and industrial areas. These statistics will show our helicopter will have a positive impact on our community.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The \$75,000 maintenance costs will be paid from funds derived by the Police Department from the previous sale of surplus helicopters. The project budget for the Helicopter program is \$311,000.

The unobligated fund balance as of June 15, 1997 is \$140,000 which is sufficient to cover the cost of the maintenance agreement with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

This project is categorically exempt from the California Environment Quality Act under Section 15601(b)(3).

City Council  
Air Operations Unit Operational Plan  
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**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

The action requested herein is consistent with Sacramento City Code, Title 59.

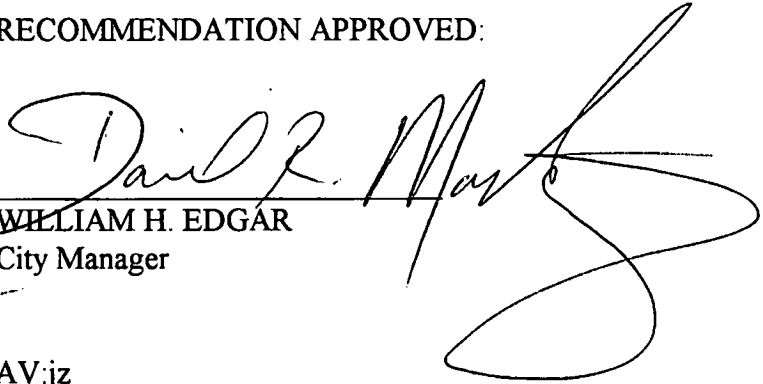
**MBE/WBE EFFORTS:**

Not Applicable

Respectfully submitted

  
ARTURO VENEGAS, JR.  
Chief of Police

**RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:**

  
WILLIAM H. EDGAR  
City Manager

AV:jz

Ref: 7-17

RESOLUTION NO. 97-443

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
AUG 7 1997  
OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER  
TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH  
THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
FOR AVIATION MAINTENANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:

- I. The City Manager, or a designated representative, is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of the City of Sacramento, an agreement with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, including any extensions or amendments thereof, to reimburse the Sacramento Sheriff's Department \$75,000 for aviation maintenance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

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

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

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DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE

ARTURO VENEGAS, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

July 15, 1997

HALL OF JUSTICE  
813 SIXTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2495

PH 916-264-5121  
FAX 916-448-4620  
E-MAIL  
spdcou@quiknet.com  
http://  
www.quiknet.com/spcl/

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL OF SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S AIR OPERATIONS UNIT OPERATIONAL PLAN AND APPROVAL OF AN AVIATION MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** City-wide

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report recommends the City Council approve the Police Department's Operational Plan for the Air Operations Unit, including authorizing the Police Department to enter into a maintenance agreement with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$75,000.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Lieutenant Brian Louie ~~566-6457~~ 277-6069

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** July 22, 1997

**SUMMARY:**

This report recommends the City Council approve the attached agreement and operational plan allowing partial consolidation between the Sacramento Police Department Helicopter Unit with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Helicopter Unit. The partial consolidation of management, supervision, training, facilities, utilities, storage, maintenance and fuel systems will reduce costs, maximize safety, and develop a regional approach to each airborne law enforcement program. This agreement will allow the Police Department to safely place into service, one OH-58 Helicopter and store and maintain a second OH-58 Helicopter.

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