



INTER-DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Ron Thomas, Chief of Police
FROM: Sergeant Austen Munson 15016
THROUGH: Chain of Command
DATE: 03/10/2026
SUBJECT: Retirement of police horse Maverick

Sir,

In March of 2019, the Mounted Patrol Unit purchased police horse Maverick for \$8,000. Maverick has served as a full-time police horse for the past 7 years. During that time, he has been our most reliable horse and has been used as a mentor horse for all new horses. He has also been used to train new officers.

Recently, Maverick was diagnosed with "Cushing's disease". Cushing's disease is a progressive and incurable hormonal disorder that causes lethargy, weight loss, and a hoof problem known as laminitis. Laminitis causes persistent lameness and abnormal hoof growth. The disease can be managed with medication and frequent farrier visits. Unfortunately, Maverick's lameness makes him unusable in daily patrols. His increased need for veterinary and farrier visits will put a financial burden on the City and the mounted patrol team. It is my recommendation that Maverick retire after serving the City of Denver for 7 years.

Our vet recommended an equine therapy group in Gillette Wyoming called Ride and Shine Equine Assisted Therapy. They have other horses with Cushing's disease and have the team and skills to manage the disease. They utilize horses for hippotherapy, which treats conditions like cerebral palsy, autism, and brain injuries in children. Jamie Hendrix runs the 501c3 and stated they would be glad to give Maverick a new home. Her team is fully capable and ready to care for Maverick for the rest of his life. They are willing to come pick him up as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sergeant Austen Munson 15016,

Approved OR Denied

Commander Kimberly Bowser, 00002

Approved OR Denied

Deputy Chief Aaron Sanchez, 92047

Approved OR Denied

Division Chief Rick Kyle, 96027

Approved OR Denied

Chief Ron Thomas, 89016

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