

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO. _____
SERIES OF 2026

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB 26-0615
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
Health and Safety

A BILL

For an Ordinance approving a proposed donation of retired Denver Police Department Mounted Patrol Unit horse "Maverick" to the non-profit Ride and Shine Equine Assisted Therapy, citywide.

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver Mounted Patrol Unit purchased police horse, Maverick, in March of 2019 for \$8000; and

WHEREAS, Maverick has served as a full-time police horse for the past seven years. During that time, he has been a reliable horse, mentored new horses, and trained new officers; and

WHEREAS, Maverick was recently diagnosed with Cushing's disease, a progressive and incurable hormonal disorder that causes lethargy, weight loss, and a hoof problem, laminitis. The disease can be managed with medication and frequent farrier visits; and

WHEREAS, Maverick's lameness makes him unusable in daily patrols and his increased need for veterinary and farrier visits will put a financial burden on the City and the Mounted Patrol Team; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Austen Munson recommends that Maverick retire after serving the City of Denver for seven years; and

WHEREAS, an equine therapy group in Gillette Wyoming, Ride and Shine Equine Assisted Therapy, has been recommended for Maverick. Ride and Shine Equine Assisted Therapy utilizes horses for hippotherapy, which treats conditions like cerebral palsy, autism, and brain injuries in children. The group has the team and skills to manage Maverick's Cushing's disease; and

WHEREAS, Jamie Hendrix, the owner of Ride and Shine Equine Assisted Therapy, 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 and will come pick him up from Denver; and

WHEREAS the Mayor has duly reviewed and approved the proposed donation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. Subject to availability, the proposed donation of retired Denver Police Department Mounted Patrol Unit horse "Maverick" to the non-profit Ride and Shine Equine Assisted Therapy is hereby approved, until such time as the Executive Director of General Services determines that such donations are no longer in the best interests of the City.

1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: May 13, 2026 by Consent
2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: May 19, 2026 by Consent
3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: _____
4 _____ - PRESIDENT
5 APPROVED: _____ - MAYOR _____
6 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
7 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
8 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
9 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DENVER POST: _____ ; _____
10 PREPARED BY: Troy C. Bratton, Assistant City Attorney DATE: May 21, 2026
11 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the
12 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed
13 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §
14 3.2.6 of the Charter.
15
16 Miko Ando Brown, Denver City Attorney
17
18 BY: _____, Assistant City Attorney DATE: _____