


**CITY OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**

	INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM	
	TO:	Michael Colon, City Council President
	FROM:	Michelle L. Kott, Chief of Police
	DATE:	December 14, 2023
	RE:	Resolution for Retirement of "Rico" – Police K9

The Bethlehem Police Department is seeking to retire K9 "Rico", a Dutch Shepherd, from active duty.

Rico was purchased in 2016 by the Bethlehem Police Department through funds donated by Dr. Caesar and Deanna DePaco.

The Bethlehem Police Department is seeking approval to properly retire "Rico" per Third Class City Code.

If approved, ownership will be transferred to Matthew Steidel, "Rico's" handler of three years, so that he may be able to live out the remainder of his life in a happy and loving environment.

I respectfully request permission from Council, under 11 Pa.C.S. §12402.1 of the Third-Class City Code, to officially retire "Rico" and transfer him to his handler, Matthew Steidel.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,

Michelle L. Kott

Chief Michelle L. Kott #345
Bethlehem Police Department



City of Bethlehem
Police Department
Attention: Police Chief Kott
10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

December 6, 2023

Dear Chief Kott,

This letter is in reference to Officer Matthew Steidel's canine officer "Rico", an 8 year 11-month-old Dutch Shepherd Dog who has been under our care since March 17, 2016.

I examined Canine Officer "Rico" on December 4, 2023 and found decreased left hip extension likely due to osteoarthritis.

I feel at this time, he is unable to continue performing at the level that is required to be an effective canine officer without undue suffering. Canine Officer "Rico" should be considered for retirement.

If you have any questions concerning "Rico" please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur F. Obenrader", written in a cursive style.

Arthur F. Obenrader VMD

1301 Chestnut Street (East Penn Plaza) Emmaus, PA 18049

(610)967-1512 ~ Fax: (610)967-3596

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-_____

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Bethlehem Police Department purchased Rico, a Dutch Shepard, with a donation by Dr. Caesar & Deanna DePaco;

WHEREAS, Rico, as a dedicated and talented member of the Bethlehem Police Department K-9 Unit, and as an expert Patrol & Narcotics Detection K-9 for more than seven (7) years, has provided service of the highest order to protect the residents of Bethlehem and officers of the Bethlehem Police Department;

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Police Department now wishes to retire Rico and to transfer ownership of him to his handler, Matthew Steidel;

WHEREAS, Rico will live out his retirement in a loving and happy environment;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem is authorized pursuant to 11 Pa.C.S. § 12402.1 of the Third-Class City Code to dispose of personal property by sale or otherwise upon approval by City Council via resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that Rico be extended the gratitude of the City of Bethlehem, which has benefited from his more than seven years of service and the special contributions he made to promoting public safety and protecting the lives and property of Bethlehem residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, now that Rico is retired, he can relax and enjoy all that life has to offer him;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rico is extended every good wish for a long and happy retirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that Rico is hereby approved to be transferred by the Bethlehem Police Department to his handler, Matthew Steidel.

Sponsored by /s/ _____

/s/ _____

ADOPTED by Council this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
President of Council

/s/ _____
City Clerk