



24-5597

**DATE:** May 7, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jeffrey Rosen, District Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Consider acceptance of gift of \$15,000 from kNot Today Foundation on behalf of the Office of the District Attorney.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Consider recommendations relating to donation from kNot Today Foundation.

Possible action:

- a. Accept Gift.
- b. Authorize President of the Board to forward letter of appreciation to kNot Today Foundation.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no impact to the County General Fund as a result of approving the recommended action.

There are expenses associated with caring for the Canine. These expenses (a stipend for the handler, food, and other costs related to maintaining the health of the Canine) have been approved to be covered by the District Attorney's existing Federal grant related to human trafficking. If the grant expires, these expenses will be borne by asset forfeiture funds managed by the Office.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND**

kNot Today Foundation (kNot) exists to generate awareness, initiate prevention strategies, and assist in the development of innovative healing programs for sexually abused and exploited children. kNot has agreed to donate one Dual Purpose Canine (Canine) trained to locate Electronic Storage Devices (ESDs) and comfort victims of child exploitation and human trafficking with the condition that the Canine is annually recertified, and the handler attends a two-week training with partnering agency, Jordan Detection K9. Repayment will be required if the requirements are not met within the first 5 years. The total value of the kNot donation is \$15,000.

The Canine will enhance the operations of the Law Enforcement to Investigate Human

Trafficking 2.0 ("LEIHT") Task Force, which was created by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to protect survivors of commercial labor and sex trafficking, prosecute offenders, and prevent further perpetration of these crimes in Santa Clara County. The Canine is specially trained to locate ESDs with the smell of chemicals used in electronics. These chemicals are essential in locating hidden thumb drives, micro-SD cards, cell phones, etc. The Canine will also be trained in providing comfort during the interview process and has experience with human trafficking survivors. Canines have been utilized in different units within the Office of the District Attorney since 2017 and have shown to have a positive impact in the progression of cases with survivors of commercial labor, sex trafficking, and domestic violence.

The kNot donation will reduce the chances of missing key evidence found in ESDs that an investigator might not have been able to locate. The donation for a dually trained dog also is more cost effective than the alternative of buying two dogs that are each trained in a single service and will require a handler for each dog.

Per County policy, the Office of the District Attorney is required to report any gifts totaling \$10,000 or more to the Board of Supervisors.

### **CHILD IMPACT**

The recommended action will have a positive impact on children and youth.

### **SENIOR IMPACT**

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

If the recommended action is not approved, the Dual Purpose Canine would have to be returned and the funds would be lost.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Clerk of the Board is requested to send the executed letter of appreciation to Emma Marsh, Managing Director of the kNot Today Foundation, with follow up notification to Peter Jensen.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**