

## **G.O. 23.1.1 -- ATTACHMENT B**

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### **CAREER PLANNING GUIDE**

#### *K9 Handler Career Guide*

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#### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

- ✓ Have two years full-time police officer experience (at least one year with SPD).
- ✓ Reside at a location adequate to house the dog and allow for necessary uninterrupted rest for the dog during off-duty hours.
- ✓ Have a reputation of excellent initiative and judgment.
- ✓ Display ability to perform duties in stressful situations with limited supervision.
- ✓ Be in good physical condition, successfully passing a currently established physical fitness test in the good or better category for the applicant's age bracket. Maintain at least the same proficiency during all subsequent tests while assigned as a dog handler.
- ✓ Be able to lift a dog over their head.
- ✓ Be able to demonstrate upper body strength.
- ✓ Refrain from the use of all tobacco products.
- ✓ Possess a good understanding of K9 and Use of Force General Orders.
- ✓ Demonstrate knowledge of the Department Policies and Procedures.
- ✓ Demonstrate a desire for self-improvement.
- ✓ Demonstrate ability to work in team environment.
- ✓ Demonstrate ability to accept constructive criticism.
- ✓ Be able to work independently with little or no supervision.
- ✓ Be able and willing to respond to a significant frequency of calls off duty.
- ✓ Assignments to the canine unit are at will, and members serve in that assignment at the pleasure of the bureau commander.

#### **RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

- ✓ Possess basic understanding of dog behavior.
- ✓ Possess basic understanding of a dog's ability to learn.
- ✓ Possess basic understanding of dog drives and instincts.
- ✓ Current or prior ownership of dog.