

8/19/25 agenda item 4.2

no matter that

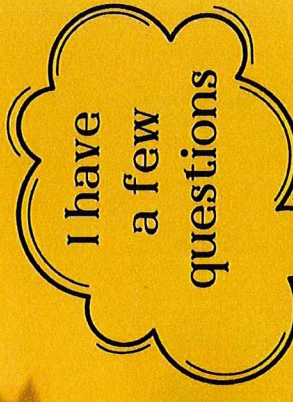
**SanJose City
2025-26
budget
shortfall
= \$35.6
million**

no matter that

**2026-27
budget
shortfall
= \$52.9
million**



**LET'S GET THE
POLICE SOME HORSESI!!**





if ongoing costs for **2** horses cost \$280K in 2011-12*
why would such costs for **6** horses be only \$120K in 2025-26? **

“*It costs \$280,000 to maintain the Mounted Unit for one year - and that's only two officers on horseback, down from eight years ago.”
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/san-jose-mounted-police-faces-budget-cut/2095418/>
see also MOU between City and Friends of Mounted United 12/15/2010 690276 HMU Friends MOUJM

** Joseph memo for council agenda 8/19/25 item 4.2 page 4

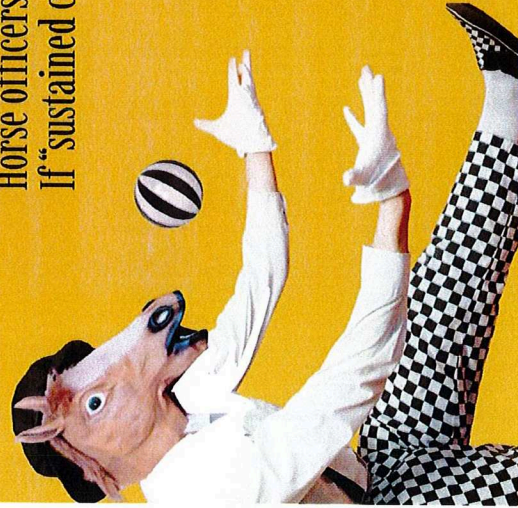


“The HMU will utilize officers on a *voluntary, overtime* basis, with compensation drawn from unspent walking beat overtime funds allocated to the Central Division. Due to *sustained challenges in staffing walking beat shifts*, these funds remain underutilized”

You're going to pay the horse officers at overtime rate to take horse out of stall, brush, clean hooves, tack-up, put into trailer, transport to location, remove from trailer, “patrol,” put into trailer, transport to stables, remove tack, brush, water, return to staff? OH - Who is mucking the stalls?

Horse officers can just show up on voluntary basis?

If “sustained challenges” to staffing walking beats exist, why would getting horses fix that challenge?



“The horses will be housed in the Department’s stables facility, It is *anticipated* that the facility is in good condition and will not need any additional funding for capital improvements at this time.”

Why not send a professional to the stables to make an assessment of current condition instead of relying on anticipation?

“Recent *evaluations* to enhance uniformed police presence in Downtown San José have highlighted the reinstatement of the HMU as a strategic, highly effective solution, and cost-efficient program.”

Why not provide a copy to evaluations showing cost-effectiveness to council and public?

“Reinstating the HMU [supports] officers’ ability to quickly respond to incidents that may otherwise go unchecked.”



What is time estimated between requesting a mounted unit and response of the mounted unit on scene?

“Beyond enforcement, the HMU is a unique and effective tool for positive community engagement.”

What about the the city converting an SJPDP patrol car into a cruise-ready piece of art?
Can’t you use that in parades, festivals and special events?

San Jose builds bridge between police and lowriders. San Jose Spotlight 9/20/23

A 2023 study by the NIH showed that mounted police officers experienced significantly higher injury rates compared to their non-mounted counterparts.



Do we really need more worker compensation cases?
Will additional city funds be needed to cover insurance for program?
Int J Environ Res Public Health 2023 Jan 9;20(2):1144. doi: 10.3390/ijerph20021144.



THE

REAL QUESTION



WHY WAS THE CITY PROVIDED WITH SUCH A DOCUMENT?

Provides more propaganda than critical facts

Written in cryptic bureaucratic style

Does not seem to be within high standards set by Offices of City Manager, Budget or City Attorney

The unit was disbanded in 2018 “due to budget & staffing constraints.” Are budget & staffing levels better now?



What is the projected wage cost of 24 officers working “voluntary” overtime for this program?

Where else could unspent walking Central Division beat overtime funds be allocated?



Given projected budget shortfall, should unspent funds be used or saved?