



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 1/22/2026

File ID: TMP-6459

Department: Police

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Auburn University and the City of Huntsville, through its Police Department K-9 Unit, to support detection canine science and technology innovation testing performed by Auburn University's Canine Performance Sciences Program.

Resolution No.

Finance Information:

Account Number: TBD

City Cost Amount: TBD

Total Cost: TBD

Special Circumstances:

Grant Funded: NA

Grant Title - CFDA or granting Agency: NA

Resolution #: NA

Location: (list below)

Address:

District: District 1 District 2 District 3 District 4 District 5

Additional Comments:

RESOLUTION NO. 26 - _____

WHEREAS, Auburn University has requested the City of Huntsville, Alabama, by and through its police department, provide support and act as host for Auburn University's study of explosive device detection – canines and their capabilities to detect newly identified explosive materials; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University is home to the Canine Performance Sciences Program, an internationally recognized leader in detection canine sciences and technology innovation; and

WHEREAS, Auburn University chose the Huntsville Police Department (HPD) because it is an internationally accredited law enforcement agency that utilizes modern technology, state-of-the-art equipment and facilities and comprehensive training techniques, and has one of the oldest continuously operational K-9 units in the United States, beginning its operations in 1963; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the attached Memorandum of Understanding is to formalize the working relationship between Auburn University and the City of Huntsville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Huntsville and Auburn University, on behalf of the City of Huntsville, a municipal corporation in the State of Alabama, which said agreement is substantially in words and figures similar to that certain document attached hereto and identified as "Memorandum of Understanding Between The Huntsville, Alabama Police Department and Auburn University for Cooperative Effort Supporting a Detection Canine Emerging Threat Testbed" consisting of three (3) pages and the date of January 22, 2026 appearing on the first page, together with the signature of the President or President Pro Tem of the City Council, an executed copy of said document being permanently kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Huntsville, Alabama.

ADOPTED this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Huntsville, AL Police Department

And

Auburn University

For

Cooperative Effort Supporting a Detection Canine Emerging Threat Testbed

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a cooperative effort between The Huntsville, AL Police Department (HPD) and Auburn University (AU) to support a *Detection Canine Emerging Threat Test Bed* ("DC-ETTB"). This MOU may be terminated without cause and for the convenience of either party with thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other.

AU is home to the Canine Performance Sciences Program (CPS), an internationally recognized leader in detection canine sciences and technology innovation. AU is contracted by the Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate (DHSST) to perform detection canine applied research and development. Through this contract, DHSST has engaged CPS to partner with law enforcement detection canine units to establish DC-ETTBs. The purpose of a DC-ETTB is to provide a context to assess detection canine capabilities to interdict newly identified explosive materials and/or examine methods to enhance detection canine capabilities for interdiction of those materials.

HPD is an internationally accredited law enforcement agency through the "Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA) that utilizes modern technology, state-of-the-art equipment and comprehensive training techniques. HPD's mission is to serve the community by protecting life, liberty and defending the constitutional rights of all people with compassion, fairness, integrity and professionalism. The HPD K-9 unit is one of the oldest continuously operational K-9 units in the U.S, beginning operations in 1963. The unit has two USPCA certified trainers and the K-9 Range is a certified training facility. The HPD K-9 Unit is a member of USPCA Region 22. The HPD K-9 Unit has trained canine officers and dog teams for over 20 police agencies in recent years.

The HPD K-9 Unit is ideally suited to be the **host** of a DC-ETTB. The HPD K-9 Unit has facilities such as their K-9 Range, kennels, and explosive magazines to support the DC-ETTB. HPD-K9 also has access to several municipal and private venues for operational detection canine assessment and training. The Huntsville location is ideal as a hub for the participation of

detection canine teams from Birmingham, Nashville, Chattanooga and other Tennessee Valley law enforcement organizations. Importantly, Huntsville is home to Redstone Arsenal where the joint FBI/DHS *Terrorist Explosive Device Analysis Center – Improvised Explosive Detection and Synthesis* (TIEDS) facility is located. TIEDS provides subject matter expertise and emerging threat materials for detection canine testing.

CPS is the hub of the *Detection Canine Innovation, Science, Technology and Education* (DCSITE) program that is tasked with supporting DHSST. CPS has significant experience in detection canine sciences, technology innovation and transfer to the operational community and test and evaluation. CPS will conduct assessments of ETTB EDC teams, provide training feedback and coordinate emerging threat testing with DHS.

HPD and CPS shall collaborate on a DC-ETTB to support the homeland security enterprise:

- HPD will serve as a hub location of DC-ETTB activities and shall provide for operationally relevant detection canine testing venues and assist in coordinating logistics for testing events.
- CPS shall plan and execute testing events, coordinate with requisite stakeholders (e.g., DHS, TEDAC-TIEDS) and provide feedback to DC-ETTB participants.

General Commitment of Time and Effort

- Tri-annual (i.e., 3 x year) DC-ETTB testing events of approximately 4-day durations are anticipated.
- TBD emergent threat testing

Warranty Disclaimer

CPS services are provided without warranty of any kind. Auburn University and its employees disclaim any warranties, express or implied, regarding services or timeliness of delivery of those services.

HPD services are provided without warranty of any kind. HPD and its employees disclaim any warranties, express or implied, regarding services or timeliness of delivery of those services.

Limitation of Liability

Each party hereto agrees to be responsible and assume liability for its own wrongful or negligent acts or omissions, or those of its officers, agents, or employees to the full extent required by law.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the date of final signature below:

**The CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
a municipal corporation**

ATTEST:

**By: Shaundrika Edwards
Title: City Clerk**

**By: Tommy Battle, Mayor
Title: Mayor**

Date Signed: _____

**By: Kirk Giles
Title: Chief of Police**

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY
570 Devall Drive, Suite 102
Auburn, AL 36832**

ATTEST:



By: Patrick Reed

Title: Executive Director – IPX

Date Signed: 1/15/26