

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles has several unarmed crisis response models that are deployed to non-violent emergency calls for service, each team equipped with either clinical, mental health or other professional staff. This approach enables the City to respond with services and assistance while also ensuring that first responders are available to answer emergency incidents. The potential positive impact to public safety resources is significant: in 2020, there were over 79,759 calls for service to 9-1-1 dispatch consisting of welfare checks, conflict resolution and non-violent mental health crisis incidents. The City has a goal of creating an unarmed model of crisis response that diverts non-violent calls for service away from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to unarmed trained practitioners and clinicians.

In recent years, the City has made substantial investments in developing sustainable alternative responses, notably including: Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART), Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU), System-wide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART), Call Direction to Ensure Suicide Safety (CRESS), 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Line, Therapeutic Van Pilot Program, and Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE). In January 2022, the CIRCLE Program began diverting 9-1-1 non-violent calls for service in Hollywood and Venice to unarmed crisis response teams. With CIRCLE, the City is investing in street-based community engagement and de-escalation, while also connecting people experiencing homelessness to appropriate health, mental health and housing services. CIRCLE also ensures coordination between service agencies, law enforcement, and 9-1-1 / other dispatch centers; the program's success has resulted in an increased budget and expansion to Downtown Los Angeles, South Los Angeles and parts of the Valley. An additional effort to phase pilots into permanent programs is exhibited with the Therapeutic Van Pilot Program (CF: 20-1178-S2). This joint program between the City and County dispatches mental health specialists that can provide more appropriate mental health treatment. Early results show that in more than 60% of incidents the mental health staff has successfully transported patients to mental health care facilities.

Noting the various models that exist, now is the time for the City to finalize development of a systematic crisis-response plan, fully replacing law enforcement presence in non-violent, non-criminal situations with a range of unarmed service providers. Council should unify the various alternative response models in order to ensure proper coordination with the City's public safety agencies such as the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and the LAPD, and support the City's capabilities across emergency management sectors through the Emergency Management Department (EMD). A new City agency or office will be needed to lead, coordinate, and further develop existing unarmed crisis response programs that advance the Council and Mayoral priorities to continue re-imagining public safety in Los Angeles.

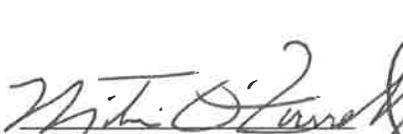
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This effort should reflect the additional unarmed crisis response teams that may result as part of the Request for Proposals initiated under (CF: 20-0769), and any changes to the City-County contractual relationship for health and mental health services (CF: 20-0769-S2).

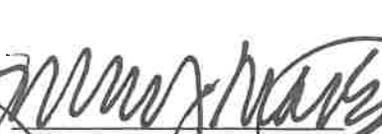
WE THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, and all necessary Departments, report to Council with recommendations to create an Office of Unarmed Response and Safety to be established under an appropriately defined department, including but not limited to:

- A “City of Los Angeles Unarmed Response,” resulting in a comprehensive long term plan to ensure appropriate staffing and funding for the 24/7 unarmed response;
- That this office ensure 24/7 coordination and deployment of unarmed response specialists for non-violent calls for service;
- Strategies to improve coordination between agencies that would address barriers for serving high-need communities;
- Collaboration with public safety agencies, especially 9-1-1 dispatch;
- Consideration of policy or resource impacts related to CF: 20-0769, and CF: 20-0769-S2;
- Include a comprehensive assessment of all alternative response models, metrics, and deployment to ensure efficiency in service from CIRCLE, LAPD, LAFD and LA County Department of Mental Health initiatives, such as the System-wide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART), 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline, the Call Direction to Ensure Suicide Safety (CRESS), Therapeutic Van Pilot Program, and the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART), be incorporated into this effort

PRESENTED BY:


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AUG 24 2022

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