

MOTION

The Therapeutic Van Pilot Program (Program) partnership between the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) utilizes the DMH therapeutic transport response in conjunction with LAFD’s Tiered Dispatch System for calls involving patients with mental health crises. The Program provides mental health patients with immediate therapeutic support from DMH staff and is part of a panacea of the City’s evolving unarmed model of response for those experiencing mental health crises.

As a pilot, the Program launched in January 2021 and was designed to be launched for one year with a focus on sustaining and expanding the study areas throughout the City. The Therapeutic Vans are owned by the County of Los Angeles and staffed by a DMH Psychiatric Mobile Response Team. The teams are meant to be available 24 hours a day and are deployed from LAFD stations. Pursuant to these recent annual budgetary cycles, the Program expanded to service five geographies: Downtown, South Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, Southwest Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. The Program will be implemented for a second year as the City Council recently amended the Memorandum of Agreement to extend it for an additional year, ending service on June 30, 2024.

Through the Program, Fire Station 40, located on Terminal Island in Council District 15, services the Harbor and Southwest region. The location of Fire Station 40 is not easily accessible and will become increasingly difficult for ingress and egress with the future Vincent Thomas Bridge Deck Replacement Project.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Fire Department, with assistance from the General Services Department, and in coordination with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, to report within 45 days on the feasibility of moving the Therapeutic Van Pilot Program from Fire Station 40 to another dispatch center in the Harbor Area. This report should provide a list of potential LAFD stations, both active and inactive, within Council District 15 that could serve as dispatch centers for the Therapeutic Vans and should consider the location near arterials or freeways that allows for service and dispatches to be as efficient as possible.

PRESENTED BY:

TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:

ORIGINAL

MHP
JUN 23 2023