PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

The homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles has reached proportions that none of us have previously seen in our lifetimes. Solving this issue will involve commitment from all possible partners working on many fronts, in coordination. Neighborhoods FIRST is a two-pronged effort that leads with compassion to remove barriers to housing and employment for people currently experiencing homelessness while working to prevent those on the edges from slipping into the homeless population. The second prong aims to improve the tools available to communities to alleviate the impacts of homelessness on neighborhoods.

In May 2016, the LAPD launched as a pilot project its first Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) team in the San Fernando Valley. The program was rolled out Citywide soon after and consists of 10 officers and 1 Sergeant in each of the four LAPD Bureaus. The team pairs specially trained LAPD officers with outreach workers to proactively identify homeless encampments and connect those residents to services in real time. The teams also work hand in hand with the City's Bureau of Sanitation to enforce the City's ordinances pertaining to public spaces and to ensure those spaces are kept sanitary and in order. The HOPE teams have been responsible for initiating outreach with thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the City of Los Angeles. In addition to the outreach efforts, HOPE teams alongside LASAN have been responsible for thousands of tons of trash, and thousands of pounds of hazardous materials being removed from City streets. Given the homelessness crisis that the City of Los Angeles is facing, the LAPD HOPE teams are an essential tool in the City's mission to end homelessness. Currently, HOPE teams are categorized as a special detail and not a regular unit of the Department like Detectives or Patrol. The benefits the HOPE teams have provided the communities of Los Angeles are immeasurable and should be a permanent fixture of the department.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department report back to the Public Safety Committee with the steps necessary to regularize the HOPE teams as a permanent unit within the LAPD.

PRESENTED BY MITCHELL ENGLANDER

Councilmember, 12th District

ORIGINAL

August 23, 2017

SECONDED BY