

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POLICE REFORM

MOTION

As communities across the country are reimagining what public safety looks like, many are looking at public safety through the lens of public health. Here in Los Angeles, we are beginning to consider creating alternatives to uniformed police officers responding to every emergency call. Having social workers, mental health professionals, or civilian staff or volunteers may make more sense in several types of situations.

At the same time, we must invest in our communities and allow intervention at the neighborhood level to disrupt and prevent violence before it starts. We must question the conditions that create social ills like drug overdoses, mental health crises, homelessness, human trafficking, gang activity, or domestic abuse. Too often the roots of those problems are poverty and racism.

The City should solicit feedback from community members about the needs in their own neighborhoods that would allow them to feel safe, and give them a voice in designing public safety plans that work for them. In some communities, the needs may be things like more , educational or vocational resources, afterschool programs, community and family programs, mentorship opportunities, parenting 101, housing upgrades, better street lighting, more green space, recreational facilities, or the like. We must expand our scope of thinking about what makes a community safe and prevent violence before it begins.

A citywide Office of Violence Prevention could house resources for communities to establish such plans and respond effectively to crises before they begin. Such an office would employ civilian teams, or contract with a non-profit organization, to work within communities to create public safety plans unique to their neighborhoods and then implement them. Once established, when situations of interpersonal conflicts arise, mediators, conflict interrupters, and restorative justice teams could answer the call if no one's safety is at risk.

Violence interruption programs have worked in other parts of the country, like Washington, DC, where information about violence is shared through personal outreach and staff members work to mediate and diffuse such conflicts. Minneapolis has also created an Office of Violence Prevention, which works with the Minneapolis Health Department, to holistically approach public safety and prevent violence before it starts. With enough resources and a dedicated dispatch service, such programs could work in Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Officer, and any other relevant departments as needed be instructed to report back to Council on the feasibility of creating an Office of Violence Prevention in the City of Los Angeles, including but not limited to, legal considerations, funding requirements, staffing and budget impacts, jurisdictional responsibilities, and services that should be provided.

I FURTHER MOVE that Chief Legislative Analyst, in consultation with advocacy organizations and experts in the field, report back on models, examples and best practices for the development and implementation of violence prevention and community intervention strategies, such as the examples cited above in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C., and report back on applying such models to the unique needs of Los Angeles. The report should also include options and opportunities for the City to partner with the County of Los Angeles to provide social welfare services in these cases; as well as the potential to partner with foundations and non-profit organizations in the community.

PRESENTED BY:

MIKE BONIN (verbal)
Councilmember, 11th District

DAVID E. RYU (verbal)
Councilmember, 4th District

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON (verbal)
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 7th District