

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POLICE REFORM REPORT relative to developing an unarmed model of crisis response.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. DIRECT the City Administrative Officer (CAO), with the assistance of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and City Attorney, to develop and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking one or more non-profit partners to implement a pilot program for mobile crisis response modeled after the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) Program, which would enable 911 operators to dispatch contracted service providers and specialists for non-violent calls that may have a social services component in the City including:
  - a. Mental health
  - b. Substance abuse
  - c. Suicide threats
  - d. Behavioral distress as well as
  - e. Providing conflict resolution and welfare checks.
2. And further DIRECT that City departments should consider the following in the development of the RFP as detailed above in Recommendation No. 1:
  - a. The size of the City of Los Angeles in population and square mileage.
  - b. The number of mental health related calls diverted to the LAPD and Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD).
  - c. The diversity of the City, including but not limited to:
    - i. Racial demographics.
    - ii. The number of languages spoken.
    - iii. The number of people living in poverty.
    - iv. The number of people experiencing homelessness.
    - v. Homeless related mental health calls.
    - vi. Substance abuse related calls
    - vii. Any other factors that may be relevant to developing this type of program to meet the needs of City residents.

3. DIRECT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of the City Attorney, to report back in regard to changes to state and local law that may be needed to expand the ability of unarmed civilians to handle certain duties currently handled by sworn officers that do not involve serious criminal activity.
4. INSTRUCT the Personnel department, with assistance from the CAO, to report with recommendations in regard to creating of a new civilian classification that would be responsible for responding to specified calls for service currently being handled by police officers.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the CLA. Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:  
MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council  
Silverlake Neighborhood Council

For, If Amended:  
Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council  
East Hollywood Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On October 2, 2020, your Committee considered a September 18, 2020 CLA report relative to developing an unarmed model of crisis response. According to the CLA, crisis response is generally defined as an immediate response by qualified law enforcement, health, or emergency professionals during a crisis such as a violent crime, medical emergency, or natural disaster. These services are largely provided by governmental agencies and may be supplemented and assisted by community service providers. Mobile crisis response teams provide assistance at any location, often 24/7, where an individual may be experiencing a crisis.

Mobile crisis response, in general, is solely provided by the police or other governmental entities, as healthcare providers do not have the capacity to respond to these crises 24/7 throughout a wide geographic area. In most jurisdictions, the first point of contact with a government entity tasked with crisis response is that jurisdiction's 9-1-1 system. Since the LAPD is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the City, they are tasked with responding to a significant number of calls requiring crisis response. As the LAPD is often the first responder to crisis situations, special units, such as the Mental Evaluation Units (MEUs) and Domestic Abuse Response Teams (DARTs) have been developed to handle cases involving specialized response. These units pair specially trained officers with mental health professionals or other specialized service providers, and are often cited as some of the most innovative response models used in the United States. Referrals to these programs are generally made through 9-1-1.

The LAFD has also developed the Advanced Provider Response Units (APRUs) which are

staffed with an LAFD Paramedic and an Advanced Provider such as a Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner, and provide a broad scope of services outside of traditional paramedic response. The LAPD has been directed to report on its co-response units (Council File No. 20-1088) and the LAFD has been directed to report on the inclusion of mental health professionals to APRUs (Council File No. 20-0769-S1). Similarly, Los Angeles County has created Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) which pair a Sheriff's Department Deputy and a Department of Mental Health clinician and task them with responding to cases involving mental health issues.

The County operates several other programs such as the Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams to provide mental health evaluations for those under involuntary detention within a limited geographic service area; and the School Threat Assessment Response Team (START) which provides services to youth at risk for school violence. LAHSA implements the Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT) which provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness and has created the Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal (LA-HOP) to allow for referral for outreach services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Unarmed mobile crises response programs are provided throughout the United States by several differing jurisdictions and municipalities. These programs are largely provided by municipalities in collaboration with non-profits or governmental public health providers. Additional municipalities including but not limited to the cities of Sacramento, CA, Albuquerque, NM, and Minneapolis, MN have recently taken steps to replace law enforcement responses to non-violent calls with alternative healthcare and unarmed responses. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to make a series of recommendations that are detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POLICE REFORM

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
WESSON:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
LEE:	YES
CEDILLO:	ABSENT
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

ARL  
10/2/20

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**