

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the resources needed to expand the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) and System-wide Mental Assessment Response Teams (SMART).

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Harris-Dawson - Price - Wesson - Ryu):

DIRECT the LAPD to report in regard to resources needed to expand the LAPD's MEU and SMART in order to ensure that police officers in the field can call SMART or other MEU resources anytime there may be a need.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

At a regular held on March 3, 2021 the Public Safety Committee virtually considered a Motion (Harris-Dawson - Price - Wesson - Ryu) relative to resources needed to expand the LAPD's MEU and SMART. According to the Motion, the LAPD MEU is one of the first and largest law enforcement-mental health co-response operations in the nation. The LAPD deploys MEU resources to the field to assist officers on calls where mental health issues are suspected, in order to ensure that police officers respond to these calls for services appropriately. However, the demand for these services means that these resources are not always available to officers in the field who need them. The MEU has a number of subunits, including SMART. SMART is co-supported by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and helps uniformed officers effectively respond to and link people in crisis to appropriate mental health services. Mental health is a factor in a number of calls fielded by LAPD, and officers responding to these calls should always have assistance from specialized units trained for these instances. After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee approved the recommendation in the Motion, as detailed above. This matter is now transmitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
DE LEON:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-