

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

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Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(15) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/01/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 04/26/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1178-S1

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council (UNNC) supports CF 20-1178-S1, the Therapeutic Van Pilot Program. • From 2015 to 2019, 25% of the people shot by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers were having a mental health crisis (LAPD 2019 Use of Force Report). • In 2019, the LAPD received 20,758 mental health related emergency calls (Leila Miller, LA Times, 6/24/20). • The LA Jail system is the largest mental health facility in California (LASD News). Police officers are NOT SOCIAL WORKERS and not trained or equipped to deal with psychiatric emergencies. Yet they are often the only resource a community member or family member of a person experiencing a psychiatric crisis has to call. Tragically, many of these calls lead to arrest or death. Peace officers in Los Angeles have been forced to take on the responsibility to respond to mental health patients because up to now no other service has been developed to do the job. And, the current system wastes money. • The societal costs associated with mentally ill individuals having encounters with the criminal justice system can be substantial (Exploring the identification, validation, and categorization of the cost and benefits of criminal justice in mental health: the PECUNIA project. Janssen, L. 7/27/20). • Ten studies with cost data suggested that pre-arrest diversion can lead to overall cost savings (The crime, mental health, and economic impacts of pre-arrest diversion of people with mental health problems: A systematic review. Bird, K. 6/29/19). Since the deinstitutional movement of the mental health system starting in the 1960s, there has been little to no systemic plan for how to care for the mentally ill in our communities. This motion offers the beginning of an effort to find a solution to the problem. As much as we endorse this motion, we also must point out that it is only the start. We urge City Council to explore additional innovative programs and solutions.