

BUDGET & FINANCE

MOTION

On October 14, 2020, the Council approved (CF 20-1178) the direction for the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with the assistance of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and United Firefighters of Los Angeles (UFLAC) to report on the agreement between the LAFD and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) for the Therapeutic Van Pilot Program.

The Therapeutic Van Pilot Program will be a partnership between the LA County Department of Mental Health and the City of Los Angeles that represents an unarmed model of emergency response for those experiencing a mental health crisis. Most patients experiencing a mental health crisis are met with police officers or firefighters and transported to an emergency room regardless of its ability to provide mental health services. This pilot program will dispatch a Therapeutic Van staffed by trained mental health professionals to respond to patients and provide treatment for those experiencing a mental health crisis in a more thoughtful and effective way.


Funding this program with urgency will demonstrate our commitment as a City to reform our approach to public safety and identify alternatives to deploying police officers for incidents involving mental illness, homelessness, and other social or public health needs that can be better served by clinical and unarmed professionals.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer be directed to identify funding sources and report back with recommendations and controller instructions to fund the City's cost for the Therapeutic Van Pilot Program in order to implement the program immediately.

PRESENTED BY:



MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 1th District

SECONDED BY:







MAR 03 2021