

MOTION

A 2022 study conducted by the American Psychological Association found that nearly 20 percent of all calls to law enforcement nationwide involved someone with a mental health crisis. In the City of Los Angeles, 11 of the 31 Officer-Involved-Shootings (OIS) in 2022 (35 percent) included individuals perceived to have a mental illness. The OIS that occurred just two weeks into 2023 underscores the demand for the expansion of these resources and for comprehensive evaluation of the deployment and procedures that need to be systematically addressed.

As captured by motion CF 22-0978, the City of Los Angeles continues to expand deployments of unarmed response models that can better handle mental health and domestic dispute emergencies; however these alternatives are not managed deployment by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) nor are they measured for efficacy and impact.

The LAPD has been increasingly training its officers to handle these unique situations by using important social services models such as the Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) and the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART).

The MEU was created to assist patrol officers who are dealing with mental health-related calls. Through the MEU, individuals from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds—including trained dispatchers, mental health professionals, and follow-up case managers—work together to determine the appropriate response to the emergency at hand.

The MEU has several subunits, including:

- The Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Teams (SMART);
- The Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP);
- The Triage Desk; and
- The MEU Training Unit.

The DART is a crisis response team that pairs domestic violence victim advocates with LAPD officers who have received special training to respond to the scene of domestic violence incidents once the scene has been rendered safe by the primary patrol unit.

However, it is important to note that a mental health or domestic violence incident is not guaranteed to receive a response from these specialized units; responses are dependent on resource availability. The LAPD reports that, at present, only one-third of mental health calls receive MEU deployment. It is of critical importance to the safety of Angelenos that we make additional investments to match the need for the aforementioned resources.

§ 7
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Office (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with input from LAPD and all necessary departments, report back

within 30 days on the volume of mental health and domestic violence calls and incidents that occur annually within the city, as well as the capacity and response times that the current Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) and Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) resources can deploy. The report should include the history of growth since its origination and outline any shortfall in resources that prevents the department's ability to deploy MEU and DART teams to all qualifying incidents.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Office (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), with assistance from LAPD and all necessary departments, report back with a budget proposal for expansion of the MEU and DART, which should include the personnel, financial resources, and deployment procedures needed to make the programs more widely available in response to mental health emergencies.

PRESENTED BY: _____

Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____

Staci Park
Staci Park

ORIGINAL