

MOTION

Incarceration can have acute long- and short-term impacts on an individual including difficulty accessing employment, housing, and other benefits. As a result, diversion programs can have a marked impact on communities experiencing high levels of crime or economic distress, offering alternatives to incarceration. The City of Los Angeles has long been a leader in an alternative, holistic approach to public safety that includes community engagement and diversion programs. Diversion programs are an effective tool for law enforcement to collaborate with communities and intercept juvenile, first-time, and repeat offenders, offering diversion and social services.

Diversion programs may proactively focus on high-crime communities and connect those communities with crime prevention services or may intercept misdemeanor or first-time offenders. Diversion programs allow law enforcement to hold violators accountable for their actions while averting conviction. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has piloted several programs and currently conducts the Los Angeles Diversion, Outreach, and Opportunities for Recovery (LA DOOR) program providing diversion and peer-led multidisciplinary social services including substance use treatment, mental health support, physical healthcare, and case management, without law enforcement as the first point of contact.

Diversion programs are a vital means of preventing incarceration while ensuring that first time offenders and vulnerable populations are connected to the services they need. Understanding how the City can better coordinate resources to address and uplift the needs of diversion and other related programs will allow for greater access to these supportive programs. An overview of LAPD diversion programs would allow for an evaluation of their effectiveness and assist in identifying gaps in service and challenges to implementation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) report to the Council with an overview all diversion and recidivism programs implemented by the LAPD or in collaboration with other agencies, including metrics for each program, challenges to implementation, and an evaluation of their success in meeting diversion objectives. The report should also include recommendations to increase participation and improve the effectiveness of each program, as well as the potential effectiveness and feasibility of incorporating existing City resources, including those offered by the Youth Development Department, the Mayor’s GRYD Office, and Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department (CHRED).

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