

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Angel Quintanilla  
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**Council File No:** 20-0780

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Ad Hoc Police Reform Committee Chair Wesson: Thank you for your efforts in addressing the crisis of the disproportionate number of people of color being killed by law enforcement. Your focus on identifying more comprehensive unarmed crisis response models to be implemented throughout the City of Los Angeles is admirable. I could not agree more with you when, while welcoming the Ad Hoc Police Reform Committee during the October 2nd special meeting, you said “I truly believe, with our actions today, we're going to send a message throughout this country that is going to be heard by cities and towns throughout the United States of America.” The policies you lead via the Committee, such as item number 20-1178, relating to the LAC DMH and LAFD Therapeutic Van Pilot, are trailblazing and standards other communities throughout the nation should adopt. In the vein of public safety reform, my colleagues and I ask for the Committee to consider the expansion of existing programs such as the Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team, also known as SMART. These teams respond to 911 calls that involve mentally ill constituents undergoing crisis, that may be incorrectly identified as danger to self or others but could benefit from outreach through the collaborative efforts of a licensed therapist and police officer team. According to the LAPD Use of Force Year-End Review 2019, “the Department responded to over 20,757 calls for service involving persons experiencing a mental health crisis.” SMART responded and handled 7,873 of those calls with, approximately, 6,281 or 79.78% resulting in a \$5150 WIC involuntary hold. It is important to note that the 7,873 are merely the calls SMART was available to engage but does not include all the calls they were unable to engage due to deficits in team numbers; only 17 SMART teams are available to respond 24/7. These teams serve 21 LAPD divisions, respond to any one of the nearly 1 million calls LAPD receives each year, within its 503 square mile jurisdiction, serving nearly 4 million constituents. According to The Washington Post Fatal Force statistics, 1,330 of 5,764 total individuals killed by law enforcement since 2015 had signs of mental illness; that is 23.07% of all deaths by law enforcement since 2015. There have been at least 88 law enforcement related deaths within the City of Los Angeles since 2015. LAPD needs to protect and serve the

SMART way. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Angel  
Quintanilla