

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to unarmed crisis response in other cities.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. NOTE and FILE the May 18, 2023 Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and June 5, 2024 City Administrative Officer (CAO) reports relative to unarmed crisis response in other cities, inasmuch as these reports are for information only and no Council action is required.
2. DIRECT the CAO and Department of General Services (GSD) to report with additional analysis on potential sites to house community spaces for mobile crisis response teams, including potential vacant space in City office buildings or other facilities that would be suitable for non-profit leases, including state, county and federal properties.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The MFC reports that there is no impact to the General Fund as this is a no-cost license agreement. LA's BEST is responsible for providing furniture, equipment, phones, internet, and security. No parking will be provided by the City to LA's BEST under this agreement.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

(Also referred to the Public Safety Committee)

Summary:

On June 25, 2024, your Committee considered May 18, 2024 CLA and June 5, 2024 CAO reports relative to unarmed crisis response in other cities. During the meeting, the CLA provided an overview of various unarmed crisis response programs in other jurisdictions and answered questions from the Committee members. The CLA also noted that increasing calls for service relating to behavioral and mental health, as well as populations requiring specialized care have resulted in the implementation of alternative crisis response across the country. The CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon has been in service since 1989, and has become a model for similar programs across the nation. Several alternative crisis response programs, including those in Los Angeles, have been modeled after and piloted in the past several years.

The programs detailed in the CLA's report are all alternative unarmed crisis response programs, providing a gamut of services, intended to serve differing populations and objectives and as such, the report provides a high-level overview of each program's scope, history, current status, and budget. Additional information to further provide context on the scope and budget of each program is also included as appropriate.

Among the programs surveyed, the most common differentiating factors between programs have consistently been the target populations, governance structure, sourcing of program specialists (contracted or in-house), and whether a program integrates or diverts 9-1-1 calls for service. Other important recurring themes are the provision of 24/7 jurisdiction-wide service and the leveraging of grant funding (or police department diverted funds) for scaling and one-time purchases.

The CAO then provided an overview of identifying potential community spaces that can be transformed into a community crisis resource center where mobile crisis response teams can be deployed and report back on the cost to operate these centers as well as funding sources potentially available to the City of Los Angeles to support the implementation of the 9-8-8 mental health crisis hotline system and implementation and/or expansion of mobile crisis response teams. The CAO also answered questions from the Committee members. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the CLA and CAO reports. Also, the Committee moved to recommend directing the CAO and GSD to report back with additional analysis as detailed above in Recommendation No. 2. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Government Operations Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

PADILLA: YES

HERNANDEZ: YES

HUTT: YES

ARL

6/25/24

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-