

MOTION

In just the first three days of 2023, three Angelenos were killed by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in separate incidents whilst in the midst of crises. Takar Smith, Keenan Anderson, and Oscar Leon were each dealing with their own challenging, treatable moments and our City's emergency response not only failed them and their loved ones, but took their lives.

Every Angeleno should be able to trust that when they call Emergency Services they will be delivered safe, compassionate, effective services that truly meet the moment. While Los Angeles has seen success with pilot programs such as the Therapeutic Vans operated by the LA County Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), we do not yet have enough capacity to meet the demand, or the severity of certain mental health crises. There are many other models throughout the country with remarkable track records that are worth studying and understanding as we work toward a care-first approach to crises in Los Angeles. One example of success in this arena is Denver's Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Program, which deploys, through 911, Emergency Response Teams that include Emergency Medical Technicians and Behavioral Health Clinicians to engage individuals experiencing distress related to mental health issues, poverty, homelessness, and substance abuse.

We cannot delay or leave any stone unturned as we reckon with the reality that in our City, as the beginning of this year has already proved, seeking support in a moment of crisis can result in an individual's death. LAPD officers are not trained mental health professionals and deploying them to respond to these types of emergency calls will never result in the outcomes we need. We must protect the people of this City and we must make sure that we are doing so by creating a model based on proven successes.

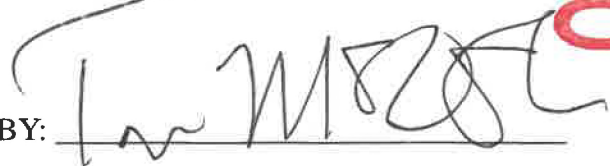
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Office of the City Administrative Officer identify funding to pay for travel, lodging, and any other expenses required for the Denver Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Program to come to Los Angeles to make a presentation to the City Council and any relevant City Departments, including LAFD.

PRESENTED BY:



EUNISSES HERNANDEZ  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

JAN 13 2023