

MOTION

In the wake of a nationwide push for reform following high-profile incidents of police brutality in 2020, the Los Angeles City Council introduced a series of motions aimed at shifting responsibilities for responding to non-violent calls for service away from LAPD. The Council asked to develop a pilot program for unarmed crisis response (20-0769), to consider models of unarmed traffic enforcement (20-0875), and to develop a long-term transition plan to shift responsibility for nonviolent responses away from law enforcement (22-0979).

These commitments yielded new programs, two of which are still in operation. In 2021, the City Council authorized an agreement with Urban Alchemy to implement the Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE) program (21-0875), designed to dispatch trained personnel to non-violent calls about homelessness, which has since received additional support to continue and expand to more neighborhoods and is currently housed in the Mayor's Office of Community Safety. Additionally, in March 2024, the City launched the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response pilot program currently housed within the CAO's office, with three different non-profits hired to serve calls for service for unarmed crises in three different areas of the city.

As of March 2025, one or the other of these programs serves all but two police divisions (Topanga and North Hollywood) within the City. CIRCLE and UMCR currently function as separate entities housed in different parts of the City, each with their own administrative infrastructure, dispatch operations, and funding with UMCR and CIRCLE's budgets at \$12 and \$8 million respectively.

Since their inception, both programs have successfully diverted thousands of non-emergency calls from sworn police officers to unarmed responders. In February 2025, the CAO's UMCR program handled 941 calls, responding in an average of 28 minutes. Meanwhile, according to data from January 2025 CIRCLE responded to 3,682 total incidents with an average response time of 35 minutes.

The existence of two separate programs serving two slightly different needs has created some challenges. Residents may be uncertain which, if any, program they're served by. There are also inconsistencies in dispatch protocols and coverage that may impact frequency of use.

In light of the shared purpose and significant programmatic mandates, it is essential for the City to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a unified and citywide system of



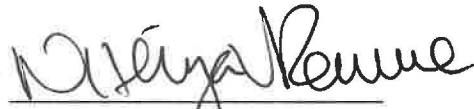
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unarmed and alternative response. Additionally, in light of the City's current fiscal outlook, the potential for cost savings, operational streamlining, and service improvements makes such an assessment even more critical.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer, with assistance from the Chief Legislative Analyst, to report back on the optimal pathway to create a single city-wide program for unarmed crisis response. The report should include, but not be limited to:

1. An assessment of the two programs Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE) program and the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR), including service parameters, costs, usage, public awareness, response times, and effectiveness.
2. An evaluation of how a consolidated unarmed response program could impact emergency dispatch operations, response times, service coverage, and overall system effectiveness.
3. Expected budgetary impacts, including potential cost savings, of having a single program, including personnel, training, equipment, and administrative overhead.
4. A detailed outline of the steps required to create a consolidated system of unarmed and alternative response, including necessary staffing adjustments and identifying potential challenges in implementation.
5. An analysis of potential appropriate departments or entities within the City to house and manage a unified unarmed response system, considering existing departmental capacity, best practices from comparable programs in other jurisdictions, and community input.

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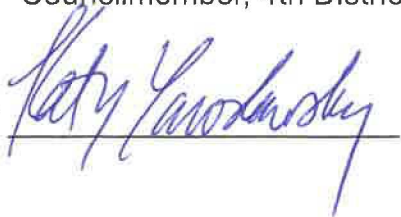

Nithya Raman

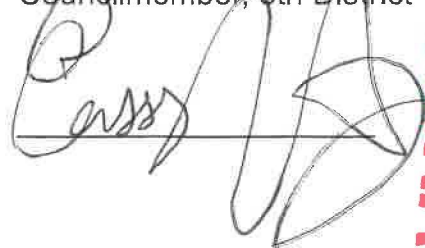
Councilmember, 4th District



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