

AD HOC POLICE REFORM

MOTION

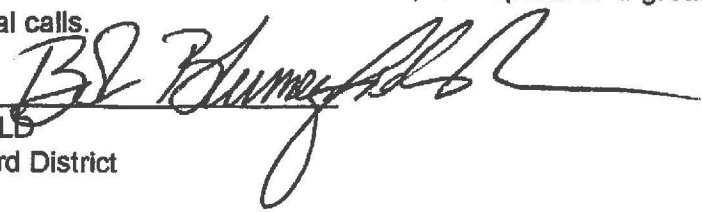
As local leaders rethink traditional models of public safety and move toward reform, it is critical to consider existing programs that can be used to quickly implement positive changes. In 2019, Police Department (LAPD) officers were dispatched 20,598 times for calls involving mental illness and 15,544 times for calls to conduct welfare checks. These are two types of calls that in many cases should not require armed officers or full Fire Department (LAFD) engine companies to handle.

In 2018, the LAFD launched its Advanced Provider Response Unit (APRU) program. APRU was an innovation originally vetted by the Public Works Committee and funded through the Innovation Fund. Staffed with an LAFD Firefighter/Paramedic and an Advanced Provider (a Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant), the APRUs offer a vast array of resources outside of the traditional paramedic scope of practice, in order to ensure patients get quality care while ensuring that limited emergency medical resources are not strained handling non-emergency or chronic health issues.

Currently, there are four APRUs deployed throughout the City. This program is ripe for expansion and could be modified to include trained mental health and social work professionals. Expanding this program would relieve the massive burden placed on the LAPD, whose personnel are often dispatched to non-violent calls simply because the City doesn't have another service available for these types of calls. Calls that may be better handled by the APRU include but are not limited to welfare checks, reports of mental illness, intoxication, non-violent disputes, and injury. The County of Los Angeles is responsible for nearly all aspects of publicly funded mental and public health programs, but, with issues such as homelessness, the reality is that City employees are often tasked with responding to these types of issues. The City must think outside the box on how to make swift changes for the health and safety of individuals who require appropriate assistance.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Council instruct the Fire Department (LAFD), with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to present a plan to expand the Advanced Provider Response Units (APRU) from four to eleven, in order to cover more areas of the City and to respond to non-violent, non-criminal calls that would previously be responded to by the Police Department.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the LAFD, with the assistance of the CAO, the County Department of Mental Health, the Los Angeles Homelessness Services Authority and any other City or County departments that are appropriate, to report on the resources needed to integrate mental health and social work professionals into the LAFD's APRUs, to respond to a greater volume and type of non-violent and non-criminal calls.

PRESENTED BY: 
BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: _____
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON (verbal)
Councilmember, 8th District

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