



Legislation Text

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200632
ORIGINAL

ALD. LEWIS, KOVAC AND COGGS

Resolution relating to establishing an unarmed first responder program.

This resolutions directs the Fire and Police Commission and the Health Department to collaborate with the Police Department and the Fire Department to develop an interim master plan for responding to calls for service that do not involve a threat to public safety, particularly for those involving persons experiencing mental health, substance abuse or homelessness crises, with trained, unarmed first responders.

Whereas, Traditional models for responding to 9-1-1 calls for service typically dispatch armed law enforcement personnel to most incidents, including those that involve persons that do not present a threat to public safety, but may be experiencing mental health, substance abuse or homelessness crises; and

Whereas, Law enforcement personnel may not have the depth of crisis response training and access to social service resources to respond effectively to such situations; and

Whereas, The addition of armed law enforcement personnel to a non-violent, non-criminal incident may also unnecessarily escalate a situation and lead to incarceration or other criminal sanctions from an incident that did not initially present a threat to public safety; and

Whereas, Shifting responsibility for responding to calls for service that do not present a threat to public safety to trained, unarmed first responders could reduce burdens on law enforcement resources; and

Whereas, Trained, professional, unarmed first responders could serve individuals in crisis with counseling, mediation, transportation and referral to appropriate social service resources while avoiding incident escalation and criminal sanctions; and

Whereas, Through its CAHOOTS program, a partnership between police and a local clinic, the city of Eugene, OR, has since 1989 successfully dispatched mobile teams of unarmed, civilian medics and crisis counselors for 9-1-1 calls involving issues of mental health, substance abuse and homelessness; and

Whereas, San Francisco has likewise announced a plan to dispatch trained, unarmed responders to 9-1-1 calls that do not involve a threat to public safety; and

Whereas, A first step in establishing a Milwaukee program for dispatching trained, unarmed first responders to non-violent, non-criminal calls for service is to develop an interim master plan that sets forth the City's policies and goals for the program, as a prelude to a final master plan to be developed

at a later date; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Fire and Police Commission and the Health Department are directed to collaborate with the Police Department and the Fire Department to create an interim master plan for responding to calls for service that do not involve a threat to public safety, particularly for those involving persons experiencing mental health, substance abuse or homelessness crises, with trained, unarmed first responders; and, be it,

Further Resolved, That developing the interim master plan shall include consideration of establishing an alternate non-emergency phone number for the public to use in lieu of 9-1-1; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the interim master plan shall be developed with consideration of best practices developed by unarmed first responder programs in other cities; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the interim master plan shall address options for operating alongside, in partnership with, or merging with, other local emergency response programs, including the City-County Trauma Response Initiative, the Milwaukee Opioid Response Initiative and the Community Paramedic Integrated Mobile Healthcare Program; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the interim master plan shall be developed with consideration of implementation through a city, county and/or private partnership; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the interim master plan shall set forth projections for program capacity requirements and costs, address how the program will operate in relation to existing emergency response entities and programs, set forth procedures for receiving calls for service and for dispatching unarmed first responders, identify the appropriate technology infrastructure, and address training and staffing teams of unarmed first responders; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Fire and Police Commission and the Health Department are directed to collaborate with the Police Department and the Fire Department to develop a marketing campaign to educate the public about how to access services provided according to the interim master plan; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Fire and Police Commission is directed to present the interim master plan to the Common Council within 6 months of adoption of this resolution.

Dana J. Zelazny
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