

## [POLICY] MOTION 7.1 / 09.13.2023

COMMITTEE: PH&S Homeless Committee

**TITLE:** Feasibility Study Regarding the Establishment of the Therapeutic Van Pilot Program for the Mar Vista Area.

**PURPOSE:** To request that Los Angeles Council Woman, Traci Park direct the Los Angeles Fire Department to report within 45 days on the feasibility of establishing the Therapeutic Van Pilot Program to service and include the Mar Vista area. This report should provide a list of potential LAFD stations, both active and inactive, within Council District 11, that could serve as dispatch centers for the Therapeutic Vans and should consider the location near arterials or freeways that allows for service and dispatches to be as efficient as possible.

**BACKGROUND:** County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) utilizes the DMH therapeutic transport response in conjunction with LAFD 's Tiered Dispatch System for calls involving patients with mental health crises. The Program provides mental health patients with immediate therapeutic support from DMH staff and is part of a panacea of the City's evolving unarmed model of response for those experiencing mental health crises.

As a pilot, the Program launched in January 2021 and was designed to be launched for one year with a focus on sustaining and expanding the study areas throughout the city. The Therapeutic Vans are owned by the County of Los Angeles and staffed by a DMH Psychiatric Mobile Response Team. The teams are meant to be available 24 hours a day and are deployed from LAFD stations. Pursuant to these recent annual budgetary cycles, the Program expanded to service five geographies: Downtown, South Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, Southwest Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley. More information regarding the program can be reviewed here: [Therapeutic Van Pilot Program](#) The Program will be implemented for a second year as the City Council recently amended the Memorandum of Agreement to extend it for an additional year, ending service on June 30, 2024. Mar Vista has several large homeless encampments where such services are needed and would be of great benefit to the community.

**MOTION:** WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Council Woman, Traci Park direct the Los Angeles Fire Department, with assistance from the General Services Department, and in coordination with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, to report within 45 days on the feasibility of establishing the Therapeutic Van Pilot Program to service and include the Mar Vista area. This report should provide a list of potential LAFD stations, both active and inactive, within Council District 11, that could serve as dispatch centers for the Therapeutic Vans and should consider the location near arterials or freeways that allows for service and dispatches to be as efficient as possible.

**DIRECTED TO:** Los Angeles Council Woman, Traci Park, 11<sup>th</sup> District.

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COMMITTEE: PH&S Homeless Committee

**ACTION:**

MVCC Public Health & Safety Homeless Committee meeting, September 13, 2023

Moved By: Marion

Seconded by: Kopelow

**MOTION VOTE COUNT:**

**YES:** 16

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0