



July 20, 2020

RE: Council File 20-0769

To: City Council and Departments

The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council (EHNC) commends the motion to develop an unarmed model of crisis intervention as an important first step in reimagining public safety in Los Angeles. The connection between slave patrols in early America and modern policing cannot be understated; a new system is required. By responding to the needs of our communities with non-law enforcement solutions oriented around harm reduction, this new system has the potential to transform the health and safety of our city. EHNC voices support for this motion on the condition of the following:

- Funding for the system is diverted from the LAPD: The size of the current LAPD budget has been defended partially on the grounds of law enforcement absorbing critical social service functions such as responding to mental health crises and homeless outreach. Recognizing that policing is not merely inadequate to meet such community needs but in fact actively harmful, the role of the LAPD cannot simply be shifted—it must be reduced and phased out. Such a reduction can only be ensured by a reduction in budget.
- The system is distinct from law enforcement: As the City develops a new system to respond to non-violent calls for service, it is imperative that this system explicitly supplants the original police system of response. The system cannot be housed within or led by the LAPD, and should rely exclusively on professionals outside of law enforcement including healthcare providers and social workers.
- The system is developed through a community-based participatory process: Echoing the motto “nothing about us without us,” the new person-centered system must involve the input of community stakeholders including individual residents, community-based organizations, and local organizers such as the People’s Budget LA coalition. Specifically, the City must engage in continuous dialogue with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color to ensure our new system of public safety is advancing racial justice and meeting the needs of all Angelenos.



In committing to reimagine crisis response, Los Angeles not only has the power to make a bold statement in a national conversation on public safety, but an opportunity to heal the wounds in our communities caused by years of underinvestment and violent over-policing. We urge the City to sustain the momentum for racial justice through thoughtful implementation of this motion.

Sincerely,

East Hollywood Neighborhood Council