



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Don Ramsdell, Chief of Police
PRESENTER: Assistant Chief Shawn Gustason, Police
SUBJECT: Co-Responder Program - Police
DATE: November 14, 2019

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The Tacoma Police Department (TPD) Co-Responder Program, currently managed by a Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) contracted service, employs three Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) to participate in mental health and substance abuse related police calls to better serve those suffering from mental health related issues. The City recognizes the need to improve efficiencies, and reduce the cost to operate the existing program. In 2020, the Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) and TPD will utilize existing resources by internally collaborating on the operation of the Co-Responder Program, which will eliminate the need to contract with an external partner. Benefits to the City of operating the program internally are the cost savings, which will invest into direct patient care staff and not administrative costs. This will also allow the ability to manage the outcomes of the program. Additional funding will be a part of the budget modification process and the City will absorb the current Co-Responder staff from the existing program.

BACKGROUND:

This is an information briefing only.

ISSUE:

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ALTERNATIVES:

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The program transfer is expected to save the city approximately \$100,000 yearly in administrative costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

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