



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services; Tanisha Jumper, Director, Media and Communications
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety Committee; Don Ramsdell, Chief of Police; Tory Green, Fire Chief
PRESENTER: Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services; Tanisha Jumper, Director, Media and Communications
SUBJECT: Community Trauma Response Team Update
DATE: September 24, 2020

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Staff will brief committee members on the status of the community trauma response team (CTRT) project and next steps to program development and implementation.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2015, in response to traumatic events in the Hilltop neighborhood, a community group (The Conversation) submitted a request to the City Council (Council), for the development and implementation of a Community Trauma Response Team (CTRT). The original intent of the program was for a liaison between Tacoma Police Department (TPD) and the community during crisis events involving TPD. Over the years, the request has evolved to match the needs of the community, and the Community's Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) has championed the program to ensure its efficacy. At the request of CPAC, in late 2018, the City released a request for proposal (RFP) to identify a provider to implement and manage the CTRT. The CTRT would offer support for individuals experiencing trauma. The RFP produced a single vendor whose program would support counseling, and social/emotional gains by trained volunteers. During negotiations, the vendor declined to continue with executing a contract, after stating their concerns about overlapping services in Tacoma. Conversations are currently underway to develop program proposals and options for a vendor.

ISSUE:

Without a vendor commitment to implement a CTRT, staff is exploring options to meet the community needs. The responding vendor indicated that the Pierce County Chaplaincy program performs similar duties. CPAC has shared concerns regarding the chaplaincy program, and has a preference for the initial vendor. Staff will be working to propose options for a collaborative approach for both a vendor and Chaplaincy program over the next few weeks.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The initial RFP was for a \$114,000 contract using Mental Health Substance Use Disorder Sales Tax to implement a CTRT. If the proposal moves forward, this funding will be accessed to implement the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.