

TO: Bill Brand, Mayor

FROM: Chris Warren, Chief of Police

DATE: November 2, 2018

SUBJECT: Homeless Outreach Team

Crime data and community consensus have brought homelessness issues and related crime to the forefront in Redondo Beach. The problem has not been alleviated by the programs currently in place, such as PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) (PATH, 2018). Nevertheless, the reality is that many homeless persons are not capable of contacting the program or refuse assistance altogether. On a regular basis the police department receives numerous calls per day regarding homeless persons committing thefts, trespassing, urinating/defecating in public or vandalism. At your request, a Homeless Outreach Team will be formed consisting of one sergeant and six officers with an anticipated cost of \$700,000.00. Per your direction the police department staffing will not be increased, nor will additional funding be provided. Consequently, the following personnel assignments will be implemented to form the team:

- Reallocate three officers from the current swing shift.
- Reallocate three officers and one sergeant from the Directed Enforcement Unit (DEU).

The swing shift is currently staffed with three officers and one sergeant on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and operates from 2 pm to 2:30 am. The shift was recently implemented to supplement manpower on the weekends; however, day shift and night shift are at full strength and

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will be able to handle the current call load if the swing shift is eliminated. The average number of calls for service per officer on each watch is six calls (Naylor, 2018).

The current staffing of the Directed Enforcement Unit (DEU) is one sergeant and three officers. DEU was formed to respond to active shooter incidents at local schools. A typical day for DEU personnel consists of routine patrol with no requirement to respond to calls for service. The unit occasionally assists the detective bureau with a uniformed presence when necessary. The responsibility of responding to active shooter incidents (probability low) could still be fulfilled with the same officers while assigned to the new Homeless Outreach Team.

Morale may become an issue with the officers affected in the transfer of assignments. Meetings will be conducted with each officer and explanations will be provided regarding the need for the reassignment. It will be stressed that community sentiment demands action be taken, and the department and its members are ultimately responsible to the citizens. If an officer does not want to participate in the new assignment, he or she will be allowed to return to patrol, and the vacancy will be advertised for other officers.

The workweek will consist of a 4/10 shift with flexible hours to be determined from data regarding periods of the day when most calls for service are received relating to homelessness issues. The six officers can be split into two teams of three officers each for seven day a week coverage. The program cost is anticipated to be \$700,000; however, with the above transfer scenario budget cuts are not utilized to fund the unit. The cost of an average patrol officer in Redondo Beach \$148,220.80 per year. Andrea Delap, Budget Analyst for the police department,

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provided the hourly figure of \$71.26 per hour (including benefits and pension costs). Therefore 71.26 x 80 x 26 pay periods equals the above yearly number (Delap, 2018). The total cost of the program regarding six officers would be \$889,320.00. This amount does not include the sergeant position. Therefore it is proposed that the supervisor responsibility be assigned as an ancillary duty to two current patrol supervisors for seven day a week coverage and cost savings. As stated above, the projected cost of the Homeless Outreach Team was \$700,000.00 and therefore is \$189,320.00 over budget. To cover the shortfall, funds are available through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and an application must be made through the Los Angeles Continuum of Care Regional Homelessness Advisory Council (LA CoC) (State of California, 2018). The first step in this process is to have the city council adopt a resolution stating that a shelter crisis exists in the city pursuant to SB 850 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018 and Government Code 8698.2) (State of California, 2018). I recommend that the city council pass this resolution to initiate the process to access the above-described funds.

The mission of the unit will be to seek out homeless persons in the city and to inform them of services via the PATH program (PATH, 2018). Additionally, homeless people who are a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled will be detained on a 5150 Health and Safety hold and transported to mental health facility. Officers in the unit will also respond to calls for service regarding homeless persons committing crimes, and the appropriate enforcement action will be taken. Officers will receive training in dealing with mentally ill and issues specific to homeless persons; specifically, Mental Illness for First Responders class offered by INSTRUQ (LA

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HIDTA, 2018). Officers will be directed to coordinate meetings with the public to discuss this newly formed team and to receive input from citizens as to their perception of the issue.

The Homeless Outreach Team should benefit the city in that there will be a full-time complement of officers to address the problem daily. Additional benefits will be that patrol officers will be freed from responding to numerous transient calls. Hence, patrol officers will be able to spend more time addressing their calls for service and investigations and commit more time to proactive community-based problem-solving. This proposal is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

cw

References

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