

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Grant Colfax, Director, Department of Public Health
Jeanine Nicholson, Chief, Fire Department
Roma Guy, Member, CART Workgroup
Sara Shortt, Member, Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group
Steve Fields, Member, Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group

FROM: Linda Wong, Assistant Clerk
Budget and Appropriations Committee

DATE: June 1, 2021

SUBJECT: HEARING MATTER INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Budget and Appropriations Committee has received the following hearing request, introduced by Supervisor Hillary Ronen:

File No. 210626

Hearing on how the Mayor's two new street crisis teams will coordinate with the existing Street Crisis Response Teams in order to address the crises of homelessness, addiction, overdoses, and mental illness in San Francisco; how the creation of these new units relates to the City's ongoing priority of implementing Mental Health SF; how the community led campaign to implement the Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART) relates to the street teams that are currently operating or are being proposed; and requesting the Department of Public Health, Fire Department, Mental Health SF Implementation Workgroup, and proponents of the community-led CART initiative to report.

Pursuant to the hearing request, you or a representative will be expected to attend and present on the subject when this matter is agendized.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me by email to: linda.wong@sfgov.org.

c: Greg Wagner, Department of Public Health
Dr. Naveena Bobba, Department of Public Health
Sneha Patil, Department of Public Health
Arielle Fleisher, Department of Public Health
Theresa Ludwig, Fire Department



Supervisor Hillary Ronen

In 2019, I along with Supervisor Haney authored Mental Health SF, a law that established a clear roadmap to create a coordinated system of care for people suffering from mental illness and addiction. The ordinance was unanimously approved by the Board and the Mayor.

Last year, the Board approved a budget to allow DPH to begin implementing Mental Health SF. DPH has prioritized the rollout of the Street Crisis Response Teams to provide support to unhoused individuals experiencing mental distress or psychiatrist crisis on our streets as an alternative to police response. DPH is also in the early stages of implementing two other key components of Mental Health SF: expanding the number of treatment beds in the system and building the Office of Coordinated Care which includes hiring a large pool of intensive case managers to provide one-on-one support in connecting clients to treatment, shelter, and other wraparound services.

In anticipation to releasing her annual budget, the Mayor has proposed a new Street Overdose Response Teams for unhoused individuals who have survived an overdose, as well as the Street Wellness Response Teams to support homeless individuals who are not in crisis but need attention and support. Additionally, community advocates have been pushing for the introduction of Compassionate Alternate Response Teams (CART), another response team to respond to calls about the social and behavioral health needs of unhoused residents in public spaces.

It is unclear how these different street response teams relate to one another or how these services will be coordinated to avoid redundancies and allow for the most efficient delivery of services to our most vulnerable residents. The continued rollout of piecemeal, uncoordinated program risks undermining the overarching goals of Mental Health SF, which are to develop a coordinated system of care within which people in crisis can reliably get the help that they need, when they need it, without long waits and barriers blocking access to that care.

I am calling a hearing to determine how the Mayor's two new street crisis teams will coordinate with the existing Street Crisis Response Teams in order to address the crises of homelessness, addiction, overdoses, and mental illness plaguing people in the streets of San Francisco. The hearing will review how the creation of these new units relates to the city's ongoing priority of implementing Mental Health SF. The hearing will also consider how the community led campaign to implement CART relates to the street teams that are currently operating or are being proposed.

I am directing the Clerk of the Board to invite representatives from the Department of Public Health, the Fire Department, the Mental Health SF Implementation Workgroup, and proponents of the community-led CART initiative.

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Ronen

Subject:

Hearing Request on Proposed Street Crisis Response Teams and Their Relation to the Implementation of Mental Health SF

The text is listed:

See attached document.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: