



# **Culver City Review of Public Safety Services:** *Recommendations to Advance Racial Equity and Social Justice*

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Preliminary Report  
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# Roadmap

- I. Background
- II. Alternatives to Police in Emergencies Involving Mental Health, Substance Use, and the Unhoused
- III. Pursuing Non-Law Enforcement Responses to Targeted Infractions
- IV. Removing Police from Traffic Enforcement
- V. Conclusion



## Scope of Work

1. Provide a racial equity and social justice level of review at each phase of the process;
2. Facilitate the community engagement process involving a wide array of stakeholders; and
3. Make recommendations related to addressing equity and social justice issues related to public safety.



# History

Seeking Council action after the murder of George Floyd, residents ask that Culver City:

Acknowledge the systemic racism, especially anti-Black racism, and concrete action to end any racial injustices associated with policing.

Conduct an assessment of alternatives to pursue non-law enforcement responses to crisis and community safety that would reduce exposure to violence and other harm.

Pursue pathways that shift public funds away from the police budget, up to an aspirational goal of a 50% shift for prevention and alternative responses.



## Context

Skepticism of government entities, elected officials, and others with institutional power to produce systemic change but instead ...

1. Display patterns of delaying decision-making until public anger wanes;
2. Use bureaucratic mechanisms to stymie fundamental change; or
3. Choose against racial justice pathways using logics about economic efficiencies, tradition, or intractability from other entities.



# Race Equity & Social Justice Framework

1. Racism is endemic, not aberrational.
1. Race consciousness is not the same as racial discrimination, and colorblindness is not the same as equal treatment.
1. Ensuring racial equity requires historicizing and contextualizing.




## Race Equity & Social Justice Framework

4. Strategies to address racism must be intersectional and Multi-disciplinary.

5. Ending racial injustice is more likely to be achieved when it is tied to addressing other forms of inequity.

6. Racial justice is often produced when the remedies for racial harms converge with some other interest of the



# Pathways to Reallocating Public Safety Resources

1. Remove police from emergency response calls involving (a) the unhoused, (b) mental health, and (c) substance use.
1. Pursue non-law enforcement responses to targeted infractions.
1. Remove police from traffic enforcement.





# Centering Racial Equity in Alternative Approaches to Houselessness & Mental Health

The role of police encounters with the unhoused population is a driver of racial disparities in arrests and the levels of incarceration, especially of Black people.

The most common charges for the unhoused Black people booked in LA County jail involved six low-level charges *amenable to diversion and community-based care*.

# Alternatives to Police in Emergencies Involving Mental Health, Substance Use, and the Unhoused



## Freedom House Model

This collaboration is a model of how to partner medical staff and community residents to meet human needs.

Medical professionals trained community residents to replace police in pre-hospital transport and created modern EMS

Culver City can emulate the origins of the EMS partnership by working with leading hospitals, community health (i.e. Venice Family Clinic), UCLA, etc. in a regional strategy.



# Limits of the Co-Response Model

- Co-response teams have not reduced the risk of mortality or death during police interactions.
- People with mental illness (PMI) are involved in 25% of cases where police shootings led to fatalities.
- One CCPD interface with a houseless person carrying a knife tragically led to death; this encounter happened outside hours of coverage from the County psychologist on the co-response team.
- If an additional County clinician were retained, the costs would hover close to \$200,000.



# Mobile Crisis Intervention Services

- 24 hour/7 days per week non-police response to 911 calls involving mental health, substance use, and unhoused people.
- MCIS model is a non-law enforcement response to these human needs, whereas co-response is not.
- Is the most cost effective and only option that removes the threat of escalation due to presence of guns

# Pursuing Non-Law Enforcement Responses to Targeted Infractions



## LA County Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)

- ATI creates a decentralized continuum of community-based care.
- Culver City can consider adopting the County ATI recommendation to stop arresting people for the two most common misdemeanor charges: (1) driving without a suspended license and (2) petty theft, which are drivers of racial disparities by CCPD.
- ATI further calls for a harm reduction approach related to the 3rd most common basis for arrests by CCPD officers: drug possessions.



# LA County Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)

- Next Steps can Include:
  - Putting procedures in place that involve not-calling on the police in the first place, rather than pre-booking diversion controlled by the Police Department;
  - Instructing the City Attorney to work with the LA County Office of Diversion and Re-entry and the LA County ATI Office to assess removing barriers to shift ; and
  - Establishing metrics to measure success of youth and adult programs.



# Removing Police from Traffic Enforcement



# Considerations for Removing Police from Traffic Enforcement

- This may address over-policing of people of color.
- This would reduce police-community contact by shifting the responsibility of enforcing traffic infractions to non-police.
- The City of Los Angeles City Council: Department of Transportation would need to absorb these roles.
- City of Berkeley has already adopted a plan that begins to move towards traffic enforcement without police.



## Action Items for Removing Police from Traffic Enforcement

- Explore the legal framework to establish how to enforce traffic laws with staff who are not police.
- Assess what the nature of traffic related stops by CCPD are at this time.
- Articulate what constitutes 'pro-active' policing in Culver City.



## Conclusion

Long term structural change requires a good faith effort to:

- a. Establish a process to examine labor costs associated with policing
- a. Demystify the state of municipal law and liability that may or may not be relevant to implementing these alternatives.