

Action Calendar – Policy Committee Track Items

21. Support Redistribution of City Resources and Operations from the Berkeley Police

From: Councilmember Davila (Author)

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution supporting Redistribution of City Resources and Operations from the Berkeley Police, and taking the following actions: 1.

Request that any function that is currently served by Berkeley Police but would be better served by trained city staff or community partners should be transferred out of the police department with all due haste 2. These functions include all non-emergency calls, mental health calls (including wellness checks), calls related to intoxication, calls related to homelessness, calls involving domestic violence, and any other calls that can be served by any other city resource, and 3. The current proposed police budget for 2021 (\$72,774,334) will be reduced by an amount of 50% (\$36,387,167) or greater and funding of community programs and non-police city agencies will be increased by a commensurate amount, and 4. Reducing the Berkeley Police Department budget by at least 50 percent will allow funding for but not limited to youth programs or community groups and programs, housing and homeless services, food security, mental health services, healthcare, creation of new city jobs, and public health services. 5. Calls involving domestic violence, homelessness, and mental health require specialized responding staff who have been trained in de-escalation and are able to provide direct services to Berkeley residents who are in crisis. The City Auditor is hereby directed to prepare a report to Council that reveals the amount of funding that will become available as a result of these reductions in police responsibilities. 6. The City Manager will identify the expertise needed for non-police responses to these calls, taking into account comparable approaches including CAHOOTS as well as existing local programs which could possibly expand with additional funding such as: the Berkeley Free Clinic, Building Opportunities for Self Sustainability (BOSS), and the Women's Daytime Drop-in Center, Consider the Homeless and others, and initiate an RFP process for community organizations to provide those services. 7. The City Manager should create a plan for a non-police hotline that can receive 911 calls and connect those calls with non-police resources as appropriate, either by expanding the 311 mandate or creating a new city agency (perhaps 811 recognizing 8 to Abolish). 8. The City Council requests the Berkeley Unified School District and all Berkeley schools. both public and private to end programs that bring police officers into the schools, and to do everything within their power to protect undocumented students and families and to safeguard their information and prevent it from being shared with from police, including ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). 9. That general fund dollars are not to be expended to pay out settlements resulting from police officer negligence, brutality, or murder. Those settlements will henceforth be deducted from police department budgets. 10. That the Police Review Commission and Peace and Justice Commission are instructed to form a joint committee to annually review police responsibilities and make recommendations to the City Council regarding additional functions that could better be served by non-police staff.

Financial Implications: See report

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