

C-3

August 24, 2021

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute an agreement, and any necessary documents including subsequent amendments, with the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab, for participation in the Alternative Emergency Response Technical Assistance Cohort for 12 months. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab (GPL), for pro bono technical assistance to a select cohort of jurisdictions piloting the dispatch of alternative crisis response teams. The goal of the cohort is to support jurisdictions seeking to improve outcomes for residents and communities by diverting non-violent calls for service to unarmed trained professionals equipped to offer connection to supportive services such as mental and behavioral health, crisis, substance use, and other forms of support. GPL technical assistance will help jurisdictions advance implementation of an alternative crisis response model tailored to local needs by providing individualized support on program rollout and facilitated learning between participating cohort members. As an Alternative Emergency Response Technical Assistance Cohort participant, it is anticipated that City staff may spend up to four hours per week to support GPL staff, in addition to one to two hours per month of group learning time based on the cohort participant needs. See attached letters of support from City departments.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Taylor M. Anderson on July 27, 2021 and by Revenue Management Officer Geraldine Alejo on August 5, 2021.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on August 24, 2021, to execute the agreement by August 31, 2021. The agreement with GPL is anticipated to be effective August 31, 2021. Technical assistance and the cohort will launch in August 2021 and extend for 12 months with the possibility of a 6-month extension.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no cost to the City associated with this agreement. Technical assistance will be provided at no cost through GPL. Staff costs associated with participating in the Alternative Emergency Response Technical Assistance Cohort are anticipated to be minimal and will be funded within current resources budgeted in the General Fund Group in the City Manager Department. This recommendation has a minimal staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Modica', written in a cursive style.

THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

ATTACHMENTS

THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

August 4, 2021

Gloria Gong, Executive Director
Government Performance Lab
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Harvard Kennedy Government Performance Lab:

In adopting the *Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative: Initial Report* on August 11, 2020, Long Beach City Council indicated their support to: *Create non-police, civilian emergency response teams to respond to nonviolent calls for service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Explore existing best practice models of civilian emergency response teams.*

In December 2020, the Office of the City Manager's Office of Equity began convening a workgroup to take steps toward planning a mental health crisis response team, including staff from Police, Fire, Health and Human Services, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications, and Library Services. Since then, leadership from our respective departments have developed a shared understanding of this project, including a landscape analysis of existing alternate response models in other jurisdictions, current response models for mental health and homelessness in Long Beach, types of calls for service that this response team could support, and dispatch data demonstrating the need for these services. The workgroup looks forward to further developing the program details, including engagement with community members and service providers, building the foundational resources to launch the program, staffing up the response team, and measuring service outcomes for our diverse and vibrant community.

As members of the City of Long Beach executive leadership team, we welcome the resources and support that will be provided through participation in the Government Performance Lab Emergency Response Cohort. We are committed to the successful implementation of this important effort and ensuring that each call for service is met with an appropriate response.

Sincerely,



Teresa Chandler
Deputy City Manager



August 4, 2021

Gloria Gong, Executive Director
Government Performance Lab
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

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Sincerely,



Kelly Colopy
Director, Department of Health & Human Services



Reginald Harrison
Director

August 4, 2021

Gloria Gong, Executive Director
Government Performance Lab
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138

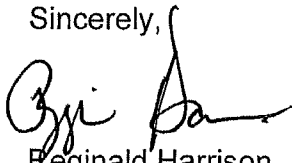
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Sincerely,



Reginald Harrison
Director, Disaster Preparedness
and Emergency Communications

August 6, 2021

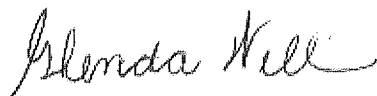
Government Performance Lab
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

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Sincerely,



Glenda Williams
Director of Library Services



August 9, 2021

Gloria Gong, Executive Director
Government Performance Lab
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

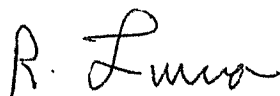
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Sincerely,



Robert G. Luna
Chief of Police