



The Police Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

June 15, 2023

Chief William Scott
Chief of Police

Dear Chief Scott:

At the meeting of the Police Commission on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION 23-55

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE TEAM AS A RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

CINDY ELIAS
President

MAX CARTER-OBERSTONE
Vice President

LARRY YEE
Commissioner

JAMES BYRNE
Commissioner

JESUS YAÑEZ
Commissioner

KEVIN BENEDICTO
Commissioner

DEBRA WALKER
Commissioner

Sergeant Stacy Youngblood
Secretary

WHEREAS, on January 16, 2020, the Police Commission unanimously adopted Resolution 20-5, which called for a stakeholder group to explore alternatives to a police response to homelessness, including to transform our response to homelessness from one led by law enforcement into a “public health response” led by trained health and human services workers;

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the stakeholder group was convened and included a member of the Police Commission, as well as community members, key City departments, and elected officials;

WHEREAS, the stakeholder group worked for over two years, in which community organizations, city departments, elected officials, unhoused constituents, service providers, advocates and academics came together to envision a new kind of street response called Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART);

WHEREAS, the stakeholder group concluded that the CART program would eliminate the police as first and primary responders to unhoused people; increase safety for unhoused people and reducing the harm and trauma inflicted; and build community resilience by empowering housed San Franciscans to more compassionately respond to their unhoused neighbors;

WHEREAS, dozens of community groups involved in this process have formed the CART Coalition, which has continued to advocate for the funding and implementation of the CART program;

WHEREAS, San Francisco has taken positive steps towards a broader and expanded response to homelessness, including implementing the Street Crisis Response Teams for certain emergency calls, as well as the Homeless Engagement Assistance Response Team (HEART) to serve the City’s unhoused community;

WHEREAS, the CART program has not been funded or implemented in San Francisco, and could play an important role as a public health response in coordination with other programs and efforts as part of San Francisco’s broader response to homelessness;

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the Police Commission hereby reiterates and renews its findings from Resolution 20-5 and continues to believe that a comprehensive and coordinated approach to homelessness is needed in San Francisco;



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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Police Commission supports a coordinated, sustained, and comprehensive approach to homelessness that includes partners from many city departments and agencies, including the Department of Public Health, Department of Emergency Management, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Street Crisis Response Teams, HEART, as well as private entities, community-based organizations, community benefit districts, and community members;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Police Commission supports the implementation of the Compassionate Alternative Response Team as one element of a coordinated response to homelessness in San Francisco along with the numerous other programs and initiatives discussed in this resolution; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Police Commission urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office to fully support, fund and implement the CART model that was the result of two years of meetings and endorsed by dozens of community stakeholders and engage with the CART Coalition on the implementation process of a broad, coordinated, public health response to homelessness.

AYES: Commissioners Walker, Byrne, Yanez, Yee, Benedicto, Vice President Carter-Oberstone, President Elias

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Commissioner

DEBRA WALKER
Commissioner

Sergeant Stacy Youngblood
Secretary

Very truly yours,

Sergeant Stacy Youngblood
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

1211/ks

cc: Deputy City Attorney Cabrera
Director L. Preston/SFPD Labor Relations
Isabelle Choy/SFPD Labor Relations
Captain D. Toomer/PSPP
Lieutenant E. Altorfer/PSPP
Manager A. Steeves/WDU
Gloria Rosalejos/WDU