

RESOLUTION FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT
COMMISSION TO CITY COUNCIL REGARDING AN UNARMED PUBLIC SAFETY
RESPONSE PROGRAM

WHEREAS the City of Ann Arbor has charged the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission (ICPOC) with oversight of the AAPD;

WHEREAS on April 5, 2021 City Council passed Resolution 21-0612 directing the City Administrator's office, in consultation with the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission, to explore an unarmed public safety response to address issues that may impact public safety including mental health, substance use, being unhoused, etc.;

WHEREAS the resolution from City Council noted that non-police persons with extensive training and expertise in public health, mental health and human services are better suited than police to perform many public safety tasks;

WHEREAS the resolution from City Council pointed out that in America, 22% of civilian fatalities since 2015 and a substantial portion of injuries arising from police engagements involve persons who suffer from mental illness, with some of these fatalities and injuries occurring during calls for service where the deployment of police officers was unnecessary;

WHEREAS the resolution from City Council stated that the presence of a holstered firearm may give rise to feelings of unease and intimidation;

WHEREAS some Ann Arbor residents, workers and visitors distrust law enforcement agencies and are reluctant to or refuse to request help if they may have to interact with law enforcement officers, yet are nonetheless deserving of public safety;

WHEREAS evidence-based unarmed response models operate independently from law enforcement agencies and allow residents to access crucial public safety services independent of the presence of law enforcement or " co-response" when so requested, such that people feel confident that law enforcement will not respond when people call to request unarmed response;

WHEREAS successful programs are guided by and led by the people they are intended to serve;

WHEREAS using armed law enforcement agencies to respond to human social services needs is inappropriate and represents a systemic problem that cuts across all groups in our community. An unarmed crisis response is better for everyone in this community.

RESOLVED that the organization leading unarmed response will operate independently from law enforcement and will not adopt a co-response model.

RESOLVED that the development of an unarmed response program will be substantively guided by people from communities who are disproportionately policed such as those who use drugs, are without housing, are in poverty, are asset-limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE), have mental health issues, or are Black, Latinx or other people of color.

RESOLVED that the unarmed response program should include linkages to a range of social services that encompass various social determinants of health and well-being such as mental health, substance use, transportation, conflict resolution, housing and others.