

Legislation Details (With Text)

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File created:	5/13/2021	In control:		CITY COUNCIL	
On agenda:		Final action:			
Title:	Authorizing the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings regarding mobile crisis units.				
Sponsors:	Councilmember Bass, Councilmember Green, Councilmember Quiñones Sánchez, Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Henon, Councilmember Squilla, Councilmember Domb, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson				
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Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result	Tally
5/21/2021	0	Committee on Public Health and Human Services	HEARING NOTICES SENT		
5/21/2021	0	Committee on Public Health and Human Services	HEARING HELD		
5/21/2021	0	Committee on Public Health and Human Services	RECESSED		
5/13/2021	0	CITY COUNCIL	Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar		

Authorizing the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings regarding mobile crisis units.

WHEREAS, On October 9, 2020, the City announced its 911 Triage and Co-Responder Program, which is currently designed to connect residents experiencing behavioral health crises to law enforcement and clinicians working together in response to calls for service; and

WHEREAS, On April 15, 2021, Mayor Kenney's budget address included a proposal of \$6 million to expand the pilot program, as well as \$7.2 million to expand behavioral health mobile crisis units and establish a hotline for emergency mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Advocates across the country have called for the use of mobile crisis units, which would reduce police interactions with people in crisis. It is estimated that one-quarter to one-half of all people killed by police were experiencing a mental health crisis. According to Stat News, mental health professionals state that mobile crisis units offer a safer, more compassionate way to help those in crisis while preventing needlessly violent and traumatic encounters in the process; and

WHEREAS, There are many variations of mobile crisis units, including a community-based response, a co-response between police and mental health professionals, and a system where police can respond after the mental health professional; and

WHEREAS, According to The Philadelphia Inquirer, some residents believe the City's co-responder pilot

program will “connect residents to services, divert people from the criminal justice system, and de-escalate potentially volatile situations” while other residents believe the program “doesn’t go far enough and advocate [s] removing police entirely, sending social workers and clinicians instead;” and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that the public have a space to provide their feedback and input on mobile crisis units in Philadelphia directly to public officials; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council does hereby authorize the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings regarding mobile crisis units.