



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 21-446, **Version:** 1

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### Presentation of Recommendation from the Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission (LETAC)

**Presenter:**

Janice Frazier, Chair, LETAC  
Steve Kern, Vice Chair, LETAC  
Yolanda Avila, Councilmember District 4  
Randy Helms, Councilmember District 2  
Wayne Williams, Councilmember At-Large

**Summary:**

The term Crisis Response refers to calls for service from interdisciplinary teams of law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and mental health professionals trained in crisis intervention. The City of Colorado Springs first implemented an approach to crisis response in 2014 and has since expanded the program three times. The City's current program is a collaboration among the Fire Department, Police Department, and Diversus Health, funded by the City's General Fund and various grants.

**Recommendation:** Expand the City's use of Crisis Response Teams (CRT) to meet the needs of the City of Colorado Springs.

**Goals:** Based on a) presentations from CSPD, CSFD, and Diversus Health; b) review of CRT models of other jurisdictions; c) research collected and summarized by the National Alliance of Mental Illness and Crisis Intervention Team International; d) input from Colorado Springs residents and relevant organizations; and e) the personal experience and professional expertise of Commission members, LETAC identifies the following goals for expansion of the City's use of Crisis Response Teams:

1. Expand CRT coverage (e.g., 24/7 coverage, additional shifts and/or teams, new models, etc.) so that Crisis Response services are more available as appropriate to Colorado Springs residents.
2. Decrease reliance on police officers as sole responders to mental health crises.
3. Reduce use of force by police officers.
4. Increase safety to police officers and other first responders.
5. Provide intervention and treatment to residents in need of mental health services who may not have been previously identified.
6. Create more reliable funding so that CRT operations are less dependent upon grants that may not be stable or sustainable.
7. Continue to align the City's CRT approach so that it matches or exceeds best practices in comparable jurisdictions.

**Background:**

The mission of the Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission (LETAC) is to make recommendations to City Council which would promote improved understanding and

relationships between the police department and the public.

**Previous Council Action:**

N/A

**Financial Implications:**

N/A

**City Council Appointed Board/Commission/Committee Recommendation:**

At the July 6, 2021 Regular Commission meeting, the Commission voted 9-0 to approve the recommendation.

**Stakeholder Process:**

N/A

**Alternatives:**

N/A

**Proposed Motion:**

N/A

N/A