

August 25, 2021

Chief Mark McMurray  
Police Chief  
City of Huntsville  
815 Wheeler Ave  
Huntsville, AL 35801

Dear Chief McMurray,

We the members of the Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council (HPCAC) fully support the City of Huntsville and Huntsville Police Department's Co-Response Team initiative. As the city continues to grow, so do the needs of our community. Recognizing that non-violent, behavioral health issues represent a significant number of calls to law enforcement across the country, Huntsville must continue to build and scale a comprehensive behavioral health system for our citizens. Core components of this system include robust training for and integration of 911 and Crisis Hotline personnel, expansion of the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) program for police officers, development of both co-response and mobile response teams, and full implementation of our new Crisis Diversion Center (CDC) that ensures follow-on care.

Specifically, the HPCAC recommends the following: **(area of responsibility)**

- Incentivize 40-hour CIT as a requirement for police officer promotion **(HPD)**
- Creation of a mobile response team comprised of a mental healthcare clinician, social worker, paramedic with a fully equipped van to care and transport citizens in crisis to the CDC. Implementing this structure will alleviate co-response teams from transport duties making them available to handle more calls. **(Wellstone)**
- Track call and outcome data for cost and benefit analysis **(Wellstone)**
- Bi-annual report to citizens on cost and benefit of co-response and mobile response teams **(Wellstone/HPD)**
- Expansion of the co-response and mobile response network (as supported by cost and benefit analysis)- **(Wellstone/HPD)**

Building a comprehensive behavioral health system is crucial towards the continued growth and development of our city. With the implementation of this system, Huntsville will continue to be the shining star of Alabama by leading the way with a premiere program that will benefit all of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Willie Love  
Acting Chairman, HPCAC  
Signed on behalf of HPCAC Members

Cc:  
Tommy Battle, Mayor, City of Huntsville  
Jennie Robinson, Council President, District 3  
John Meredith, Council President Pro Tem, District 5  
Bill Kling, Third Presiding Officer, District 4  
Devyn S. Keith, Council Member, District 1  
Frances Akridge, Council Member, District 2  
John Hamilton, City Administrator