

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



KRISTIN M. CROWLEY
FIRE CHIEF

September 29, 2023

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 23-109

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Kristin M. Crowley, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO CITY COUNCIL MOTION REGARDING THE LOCATION
OF THERAPEUTIC VAN 40 -- COUNCIL FILE NO. 20-1178-S3

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

In response to the City Council's action on September 8, 2023, regarding Council File No. 20-1178-S3, the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) has prepared the attached response regarding the redeployment of the pilot Therapeutic Van serving the harbor area to a more operationally advantageous facility.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

Approve and transmit the attached response to the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact is undetermined. An estimate for required electrical modification was not available at the time this report was prepared.

Board Report prepared by Tyler J. Dixon, Assistant Chief, Emergency Medical Services Bureau.

Attachment

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September 22, 2023

The Honorable Public Safety Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: City Clerk

COUNCIL FILE NO. 20-1178-S3

In response to the City Council's action on September 8, 2023, regarding Council File No. 20-1178-S3, the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) appreciates the opportunity to submit this response regarding the redeployment of the pilot Therapeutic Van serving the Harbor Area to a more operationally advantageous facility. The report is hereby transmitted to the Public Safety Committee for consideration and approval.

On October 13, 2021, the Los Angeles City Council approved the LAFD to enter into an agreement with the Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Mental Health (DMH) to conduct a therapeutic transport pilot program. Additionally, on June 21, 2023, the City Council adopted a motion to extend the pilot from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The purpose of the pilot is to determine the feasibility and safety of transferring care of a patient experiencing an isolated non-violent mental health crisis from the care of a responding LAFD paramedic or emergency medical technician (EMT) to DMH staff for transport to a Psychiatric Urgent Care Center (PUCC) or specialized mental health emergency room. Furthermore, the pilot tests the feasibility of DMH therapeutic vans being dispatched by LAFD Metropolitan Fire Communications (MFC).

Five DMH Therapeutic Vans have been deployed to respond from LAFD fire stations or DMH facilities throughout the city to conduct the therapeutic transport pilot program. One Therapeutic Van was housed at Fire Station 40 on Terminal Island in the Port of Los Angeles.

In response to the City Council's action on September 8, 2023, Council File No. 20-1178-S3, directing the Fire Department to report on the feasibility of moving the Therapeutic Van housed at Fire Station 40 to another location in the Harbor Area, the LAFD and DMH analyzed all existing LAFD and DMH facilities in the Harbor Area. After a preliminary analysis of facilities ruled out all but one fire station location due to a lack of available space, two locations were analyzed in further detail:

- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health – San Pedro Clinic
150 W. 7th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731
- Los Angeles City Fire Station 36
1005 North Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

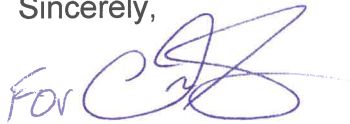
While it would be a natural fit to have DMH staff housed at a DMH facility, further analysis by DMH leadership ruled out the DMH – San Pedro Clinic due to an impending move to a smaller temporary location.

Analysis of the Fire Station 36 location concluded that it is feasible to relocate the Therapeutic Van serving the Harbor Area to this location. The Department has determined that by relocating a ready reserve hazardous materials tender from Fire Station 36 to Fire Station 40 on Terminal Island, space could be made available for the Therapeutic Van at a more centralized location. In addition to the van, the office trailer provided for the DMH staff can also be accommodated at Fire Station 36. However, to power the office trailer, electrical modifications will have to be made to Fire Station 36. The General Services Department's estimate for the electrical modifications has not been returned to the LAFD. Once electrical modifications are made, the move can be finalized.

While the Fire Station 36 location is more centrally located and potentially more operationally efficient, the LAFD and DMH do not expect the location change to increase incident response volume. The Harbor Area Therapeutic Van's current 11-mile dispatch radius from Terminal Island covers virtually the same range within Los Angeles City borders as the Fire Station 36 location would.

Should you need additional information, please contact Assistant Chief Tyler J. Dixon, Emergency Medical Services Bureau.

Sincerely,



KRISTIN M. CROWLEY
Fire Chief