



November 30, 2021

Sent via email

ccpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov

RE: Public Comment, Agenda Item No. 19, Alternative Mobile Crisis Response Program/Pilot & Gaps in Services Updates

Dear Mayor Mahmud and City Councilmembers:

Care First South Pasadena strongly supports the city's participation in the Mobile Crisis Response Program Pilot. We reiterate the importance of this program to be separate from the police department and under the supervision of a different department such as the city manager's office. The mobile crisis response program is an alternative to policing that aims to better serve individuals experiencing homelessness, substance use problems, and mental health crises than what law enforcement currently provides. For this fiscal year, the city has already set aside \$200,000 to fund our city's participation in this program, following our community's advocacy of this reallocation of funds from the police department.

As the pilot program is implemented, we continue to ask the city to engage residents and individuals served by the program for feedback and ways to sustain it for future years.

We thank the council for its willingness to be one of the few cities in the San Gabriel Valley to pilot a mobile crisis response program for the region. We are especially grateful to Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti for his leadership on this issue. Many cities across the country are bringing to life alternatives to policing, and this is one significant act of change that moves our community toward the goal of racial justice.

Sincerely,

Care First South Pasadena

Cc: Sam Pedersen, [spedersen@sgvcog.org](mailto:spedersen@sgvcog.org)