

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0351

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

October 27, 2020

Defining the City of Sacramento's Public Safety Services to Include Emergency Response and Operations as Well as Youth-Centered Prevention Services

BACKGROUND

The City Council finds and declares the following:

- A. The City of Sacramento ("City") has historically defined public safety services primarily as police, fire safety, emergency medical services, and citywide emergency management, and ensures the comprehensive delivery of such services through direct jurisdictional oversight and funding.
- B. City police, fire, and emergency medical staff are increasingly called upon as first responders for requests such as homelessness, mental health, and domestic disputes which often require a trauma-informed response and connection to ongoing services.
- C. The City recognizes the importance of preventive programs and activities by funding entities and providing internal and external supports and programs focusing on workforce development, leadership, and enrichment activities focused on youth.
- D. Research shows that providing prevention activities and spaces that uplift children and their families, such as but not limited to: stable and affordable housing; early childhood supports; quality education; the arts; healthy and accessible food; economic security, and community spaces will lead to safer communities.
- E. These types of resources can help promote public safety and general welfare while reducing factors leading to service requests for police and fire to respond which may be better served by various preventive and proactive services.
- F. In December 2017, the City, recognizing that youth need particular conditions in place to feel safe, passed a Citywide Youth Development Campaign Plan (Youth Plan) that strives to "create a safe environment, both physically and emotionally, in all settings, honoring culture and community" and "to "promote equity, justice, and accountability with a concerted application of resources."

- G. The City recognizes that young people in Sacramento (under the age of 24) may have experienced systemic oppression, whether based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, disability, and sexual identity.
- H. In recent youth forums, listening sessions, and written responses to direct questions around safety, Sacramento’s young people have said the following:
 - a) They describe today’s environment created by the pandemic, ongoing protests, instances of police brutality, and racism as chaotic, traumatic, isolating, lonely, painful, stressful, depressing, frustrating, and life-changing;
 - b) Many of Sacramento’s young people state they rarely feel safe; and
 - c) Youth define safety as having the freedom to live and thrive in a community environment that has the capacity and structure to protect and support their well-being socially, physically, mentally, and economically.
- I. The City acknowledges that generations of genocide, structural racism, and oppression embedded in policies and practices such as segregation, intentional economic exclusion, restrictive housing covenants, discriminatory employment, community suppression tactics, criminalization, mass incarceration – have created the conditions young people face that perpetuate violence, crime, and other risks to public safety.
- J. This Resolution affirms that the City establishes the definition of “public safety” to encompass the delivery of police, fire, emergency medical services, and citywide emergency management and expands that definition to include youth-centered prevention services offered by the City individually and in partnership with community-based organizations.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. Definition of Public Safety. The City henceforth defines public safety services as the following:
 - a) police, fire, emergency medical services, and citywide emergency management; and
 - b) youth-centered prevention services.

Section 2. Affirmed Commitment to Youth. To this end, the City fully commits to the mission defined in its 2017 Citywide Youth Development Campaign Plan (“Plan”) to “provide systemic and sustainable investments and opportunities, harnessing collective assets to champion intentional and equitable pathways for young people to succeed.” In addition to the goals outlined in the Plan, the City will fulfill this mission by striving to ensure public safety and general welfare through a strategic and comprehensive set of community actions that seek to diminish the numerous ways in which young people are disenfranchised, marginalized, and disempowered. Such actions include:

- a) Identifying and redressing root causes of unsafe conditions and violence to prevent harmful events;
- b) Providing timely trauma-informed and culturally responsive interventions to promote community safety and healing when harmful events/emergencies occur;
- c) Investing in programs and services – provided by the City and in partnership with community-based organizations – that promote community well-being, such as health, education, economic and income opportunity, safe and affordable housing, recreational activities and spaces, transportation infrastructure, environmental protections, and creative, cultural and community-building activities that promote love, respect, trust, and restorative justice in addition to emergency response;
- d) Establishing policies that result in transparency in decision-making and clear accountability to the public thus strengthening safety for youth and community; and
- e) Providing support for community organizations to train young people to be leaders and advocates so that they might challenge and address the myriad consequences of systemic inequality.

Section 3. Adherence to Data-Driven Decision-Making with Focus on Positive Outcomes. The City will use this integrated strategic approach and follow the direction of youth and community to:

- a) Identify a set of policies and actions, focused on young people, that can improve public safety (through prevention) by addressing the policy, systems, and environmental risk factors that could enact and/or perpetuate violence against young people;

- b) Design and implement policies and programs intended to improve, leverage, and enhance existing public safety and youth development investments;
- c) Work with police, fire, and emergency responders to develop and implement strategies and interventions that result in positive relationships with the community, particularly young people, including the development of training that focuses on how adults can be allies with, and advocates for, young people;
- d) Evaluate the impact and added value of city investments, allocation of resources, and actions toward addressing how disenfranchisement, marginalization, and disempowerment contribute to crime and violence targeting young people and impacting public safety;
- e) Respect the lived expertise of youth by integrating diverse youth voices into youth development and public safety decisions to follow the edict articulated in the Youth Plan, “Nothing about us without us”;
- f) Track short-term and long-term progress of youth development investments as they influence public safety outcomes, including collection and analysis of health, social service, and economic data - disaggregated by characteristics such as race, gender, income, age, and sexual orientation/gender identity; and
- g) Evaluate improvements in overall public safety outcomes as well as disparities between neighborhoods and between populations.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on October 27, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Ashby, Carr, Guerra, Hansen, Harris, Jennings, Schenirer, Warren and Mayor Steinberg

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Attest:

Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk

The presence of an electronic signature certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy as approved by the Sacramento City Council.