

Recommendation Submission

CPC -This response is in reference to recommendation # _23-4_____

CPC -Area Command __VLY_____

CPC -Referenced CASA area (A,B,C,D,E): __A_____

APD -Responsible SME: _____

APD -Date received _____7/11/23_____

RECOMMENDATION (One (1) recommendation per submission.

Recommendation/Reasoning must be 500 words or less for submission):

A. Recommendation: That Albuquerque Police Department form a working group with Albuquerque Community Safety and any other organizations of expertise in behavioral management such as the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee, to address prevention of calls to APD for help managing those in behavioral crisis. Specifically, that the working group identify those individuals for whom there are a high volume of such calls, and formulate strategies to address the needs of these individuals and their families or caregivers with the goal to reduce the necessity of calls for police management and assistance.

B. Rationale. The oversight of APD by the US Department of Justice began after the death of James Boyd in 2014 in a police encounter. One goal of the CASA is to prevent APD personnel from using excessive force in such encounters of those with history of behavioral disorders. Despite a great deal of effort over years resulting in near completion of the policies and procedures under the CASA on the part of APD and the City of Albuquerque, there continue to be encounters between police and individuals with known behavioral disorders resulting in deadly force. In the 2022 Officer Involved Shooting Review there were two cases in November involving individuals with known behavioral disorders and multiple contacts with APD.

The purpose here is not to question the conduct of individual officers, but rather to point to these incidences as symptoms of a systemic failure to respond to calls for help with strategies that prevent fear and miscommunication, promoting a risk of unsafe encounters, and resultant high level use of force. It is a departmental systemic issue, reported in recent CPC [Valley CPC April 2023 by Commander Matt Dietzel as involving some “60 individuals involved in recurrent calls to APD” for assistance} which begs to be addressed if we are to prevent such deadly encounters.