

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SECOND COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. C/S R-16-69 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Patrick Davis

1 RESOLUTION

2 ESTABLISHING A FIRE ~~SERVICE AIDE~~ BASIC LIFE SUPPORT RESCUE
3 PROGRAM AND PROTOCOLS FOR FIRE ~~SERVICE AIDES~~ BASIC LIFE
4 SUPPORT RESCUE UNITSTO PROVIDE FIRST-RESPONDER SERVICES FOR
5 NON-LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL CALLS, INCLUDING PERSONS
6 SUFFERING FROM INTOXICATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN PUBLIC
7 PLACES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

8 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Police Department exists to prevent and
9 respond to crimes; and the Albuquerque Fire Department exists to save lives
10 by providing lifesaving medical services and firefighting services; and

11 WHEREAS, being under the influence of self-induced intoxicants is not a
12 crime in the City of Albuquerque; and persons suffering from public
13 intoxication may require basic first aid and transportation for detoxification
14 but do not routinely require a full life saving medical response; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2015, The Albuquerque Police Department and Fire
16 Department jointly responded to more than 15,000 calls, 41 per day, for
17 medical assistance for persons suffering from substance abuse in public
18 places, sometimes referred to as “down and out” calls; and

19 WHEREAS, “down and out” calls account for 15% of total calls for the Fire
20 Department and also require the equivalent of three full-time police officers
21 per day to respond to these calls; and

22 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Police and Fire Departments currently
23 respond to these calls as a “Priority 1,” in the same category as crimes of
24 violence in progress, or life-threatening medical emergencies, responding with
25 full lights and sirens in an expedited manner, and spend, on average, nearly 45
26 minutes per call; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Fire Department currently responds to these
2 calls with full fire and ambulance services, making these highly-trained
3 firefighters and medical personnel unavailable for life-threatening
4 emergencies; and the medical response required for the majority of these
5 calls, currently provided by full AFD fire and rescue units, could be facilitated
6 by persons with basic medical training; and

7 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Police Department is currently understaffed
8 and responses to medical calls divert officers from responding to calls for
9 crimes in progress or community policing activities.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
11 ALBUQUERQUE:

12 ~~Section 1. The Albuquerque Fire Department is authorized to establish a~~
13 ~~Fire Service Aide (FSA) program allowing FSAs to learn about the~~
14 ~~Department's policies and procedures prior to entering the Fire Academy as a~~
15 ~~Fire Cadet. FSAs shall receive basic fire safety training and EMT-level medical~~
16 ~~training enabling them to assist with non-life threatening medical calls for~~
17 ~~service and support for fire fighters and paramedics on critical scenes, and~~
18 ~~other training as determined by the Fire Chief. The Albuquerque Fire~~
19 ~~Department is authorized to establish a pilot Basic Life Support (BLS) –~~
20 ~~Rescue Program to respond to non-life threatening “down and out” calls for~~
21 ~~service.~~
22

23 ~~Section 2. Upon certification to the Mayor and City Council by the Fire~~
24 ~~Chief and Director of Human Resources that the job descriptions, training and~~
25 ~~duties have been established for FSAs, and that a sufficient number of FSAs~~
26 ~~have been hired and trained, t~~The Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments
27 shall establish policies that include adjusting response protocols to eliminate
28 Priority 1 responses as the default response to “down and out” calls for
29 service, where:

- 30 a.) ~~A Fire Service Aide or otherwise trained employees~~ A BLS
31 Rescue Unit is available to respond, triage and provide aid in
32 a reasonable amount of time, and

1 b.) When there is no indication that a person needing medical
2 assistance has been the victim of a crime or may require
3 advanced medical assistance.

4 Section 3. Nothing in this resolution shall be interpreted to prevent a
5 police officer, firefighter, EMT or paramedic from initiating a welfare check on
6 any person he/she observes who may require medical assistance. Nor shall
7 any supervisor of the Police or Fire Departments be prohibited from directing
8 staff under his/her direction to calls for service as he/she otherwise deems
9 necessary.

10 Section 4. The Fire Chief shall report to the City Council on progress
11 implementing this program at the end of the second quarter of FY17 and at the
12 end of FY17.

13 Section 5. The following appropriation is made from available fund balance
14 in the State Fire Fund (210) in FY/17 for the purposes of purchasing supplies
15 or equipment for AFD:

16 Authorize the Fire Chief up to \$100,000 from existing Fire Department funds
17 subject to availability.

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