

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SECOND COUNCIL

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

ENACTMENT NO. R-2016-092

SPONSORED BY: Patrick Davis

1 RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Fire Department currently responds to these
27 calls with full fire and ambulance services, making these highly-trained

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1 firefighters and medical personnel unavailable for life-threatening
2 emergencies; and the medical response required for the majority of these
3 calls, currently provided by full AFD fire and rescue units, could be facilitated
4 by persons with basic medical training; and

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

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
9 ALBUQUERQUE:

10 Section 1. The Albuquerque Fire Department is authorized to establish a
11 pilot Basic Life Support (BLS) – Rescue Program to respond to non-life
12 threatening “down and out” calls for service.

13 Section 2. The Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments shall establish
14 policies adjusting response protocols to eliminate Priority 1 responses as the
15 default response to “down and out” calls for service, where:

16 a.)A BLS Rescue Unit is available to respond, triage and provide aide in
17 a reasonable amount of time, and

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

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

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

30 Section 5. The Fire Chief is authorized to expend up to \$100,000 of existing
31 Fire Department funds for the purchase of supplies and equipment necessary
32 to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, subject to availability.

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF November, 2016
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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9 Dan Lewis, President
10 City Council
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14 APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF November, 2016
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18 Bill No. C/S R-16-69

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22 Richard J. Berry, Mayor
23 City of Albuquerque
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26 ATTEST:

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29 Natalie Y. Howard, City Clerk
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