



Legislation Text

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CITY of ALBUQUERQUE
TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. M-20-3 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Brook Bassan

MEMORIAL

Expressing Support For The Albuquerque Police Department Budget Appropriations As Stated In
The City's FY20 Budget Priorities (Bassan)

WHEREAS, the state of the art Civilian Police Oversight Agency Ordinance was created with the purpose to foster and perpetuate policing policies and practices that effectively maintain social order and which at the same time foster mutual trust and cooperation between police and civilians while providing input, guidance, and recommendations to the City Council, the Mayor and the Chief of Police for the development of policy for the Albuquerque Police Department (APD); and

WHEREAS, in November 2014, the APD entered an agreement with the United States through the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA) to make a series of wide-ranging changes to its policing practices in a variety of areas, including its use of force policies, specialized units, crisis intervention and training of police officers; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice concluded the APD did not have a systemic problem in regards to racism; and

WHEREAS, under the current Memorandum of Understanding, the APD is required to participate in the Multi-Agency Task Force which investigates the department's officer-involved shootings, serious uses of force, and in-custody deaths, and provides reports to the prosecutorial agency with jurisdiction over potential criminal conduct by officers in such investigations; and

WHEREAS, per the Monitor and Multi-Agency Task Force's paragraphs, 81-85, the APD has been in operational compliance for over two years; and

WHEREAS, the APD was required to establish a mental health response advisory committee comprised of representatives of the City and the APD, a representative of the University of New Mexico Psychiatric Department, and representatives of community-based organizations providing mental health services and services to individuals experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Monitor further concluded, "APD has met, and in many cases far exceeded, many of the requirements of the CASA related to mental health response planning, crisis intervention, and service delivery. (The) review indicates that APD Crisis Outreach Services personnel have worked diligently with the advisory committee to assess, improve, and serve the target communities" and have been in operations compliance for over two years; and

WHEREAS, the APD continues to appropriately and effectively utilize training curricula that address field assessment, identification, suicide intervention, crisis de-escalation, community mental health participation, and scenario-based exercises and role play exercises. All training emphasizes the importance of community partnerships and appropriate referrals to services; and

WHEREAS, the annual reports show that members from the tactical units are displaying exemplary work in constitutional policing, integrity, community policing, and critical police functions; and

WHEREAS, despite serious incidents, APD responds successfully to hundreds of thousands of calls each year and less than 2% of them result in use of force; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Albuquerque had a violent crime rate 3.7 times the national average, and aggravated assault rate, four times the national average; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Albuquerque City Council voted to approve in Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020, no less than 60% of the tax receipts shall be used for the City's Public Safety Budget Goal Priorities; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Mayor Tim Keller thanked the Albuquerque City Council for their approval of a budget that included the significant priorities he proposed, including hiring more police officers; and

WHEREAS, in March, 2020, Albuquerque City Council passed R-20-21, establishing the City Council's budget priorities for the fiscal year 2021 City budget which included specific

support towards public safety, hiring 100 new police officers and increasing funding available for wage increases and other programs to recruit and retain police officers, subject to contract negotiations; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the Albuquerque Police Department are incredibly important to this community and by and large are doing good work while bringing the department into compliance in some sections of the consent decree; and

WHEREAS, it is important that our Albuquerque police officers know that while we have appointed the Civilian Police Oversight Agency to review policies and protocols of the Department, we support them.

BE IT MEMORIALIZED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:

SECTION 1. The Council reiterates its continuing support for the men and women of our Albuquerque Police Department and recognizes the difficult but incredibly important work they perform on a daily basis, and additionally understands the need and importance for our officers to continue to carry firearms both to protect themselves and the public.

SECTION 2. A copy of this Memorial be sent to the Chief of Police to be shared with the entire Department.