

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

## Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT) Update

Wendell Shirley, Police Chief 452-2031  
*Police Department*

Jerome D. Hagen, Fire Chief, 452-6895  
*Fire Department*

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

Staff will provide an update to Council on implementation of the Community Crisis Assistance Team. No Council action is needed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

In December 2021, results of the pilot Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT) program were reported to Council and the final pilot program evaluation was provided in January 2022. In November 2022, Council authorized full funding for a permanent CCAT program upon adoption of the 2023-2024 Budget.

As part of the considerations for funding, emphasis was placed on safety for all, providing the best service for the community, and learning from the experience to adapt the program over time. In doing so, the program is designed to be data-driven, including using regional metrics where available, and with continuous feedback loop between the community and service providers. Council also requested that staff conduct additional community engagement and outreach for feedback regarding the effectiveness of CCAT to ensure a safe and equitable environment for all community members.

Staff will present an update to Council on the progress of the outreach efforts, and a written summary is provided below.

In January and February 2022, the Police and Fire Departments engaged the following community groups for feedback and recommendations:

1. Congregations for the Homeless;
2. Eastside for All - which includes:
  - a. 4 Tomorrow
  - b. Chinese Information Service Center
  - c. Immigrant Women's Community Center
  - d. Africans on the Eastside
  - e. Communities of Color Coordinating Team (CCC)
  - f. Indivisible Eastside

### 3. City of Bellevue's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Team.

Coming soon, staff is scheduled to meet with the following groups:

1. Bellevue Police Advisory Councils on February 28;
2. Public Safety Community Meeting on March 14; and
3. A second meeting with Eastside for All on March 7.

In addition to the initial meetings, the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN) and the Communities of Color Coordinating Team have been contacted to schedule recurring meetings in the future. Feedback and recommendations received from the groups will inform refinements to the program.

Finally, the Police Department, Fire Department, and Office of External Affairs initiated dialogue with King County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) to define consistent metrics for the CCAT program evaluation. A meeting on February 6, 2023, raised the feasibility of partnering with BHRD on joint evaluation metrics. However, BHRD has paused on a specific commitment to the City of Bellevue while it assesses the changing landscape in co-response programs, although the door remains open. The Police Department, Fire Department and King County believe collaboration is important and we will continue to work together.

#### Implementation Update:

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Bellevue Fire CARES, in partnership with the Human Resource department, hosted a Job Fair for Behavioral Health and Public Safety Partnerships. The fair was opened to other organizations recruiting behavioral health professionals for community and co-responder positions. In total, seven agencies participated. The team plans to follow-up with a virtual job fair in May.

Two of the nine new Bellevue Fire positions have been filled. An Administrative Assistant and a Case Management Specialist have been hired. Bellevue Fire CARES is currently interviewing for the Mental Health Professional (MHP) supervisor position. Positions for the five new MHPs to staff the CCAT units were posted and will be filled on a rolling basis as applicants are reviewed and interviewed.

The Police CCAT Sergeant and Officer positions have been posted and closed the week of February 13<sup>th</sup>. The Police Department will conduct interviews and make selections shortly after.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

Learning from the CCAT community engagement and outreach underscores the City Council's Vision 2035, in which the preamble reads, "Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength. We embrace our future while respecting our past." The opening line reads, "All neighborhoods provide communities for residents that are safe and friendly...". Later in the section for a High-Quality Natural and Built Environment, it reads, "Our neighborhoods and businesses transcend age, ethnicity, and culture to create safe, welcoming places to live and work." Finally, under High Performance

Government, the vision reads, “Our residents live in a safe, clean city that promotes healthy living. The perception of safety contributes to the success of businesses and neighborhoods. Police, fire, and emergency personnel are seen by citizens every day, and we ensure that these services reflect high standards and pride.”

The Bellevue Police Department Policy Manual compels the duty to “keep the peace, protect the public, and preserve public trust while representing the whole community without favoritism.”

The Bellevue Fire Department’s values are for the Bellevue Fire embraces the City of Bellevue’s Core Values and is committed to upholding and embodying them in our policies, culture and daily actions.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this study session item.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A