



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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CITY COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

Date: November 14, 2025

To: Cupertino City Council

From: Tina Kapoor, Interim City Manager

Re: Psychiatric Emergency Response Team program (PERT) Updates

Background

On October 10, the City received a letter from Santa Clara County's Department of Behavioral Health Services regarding the discontinuation of County-funded PERT clinicians by the end of the calendar year unless cities assume the costs of staffing (salary and benefits).

Cupertino currently participates in the PERT program on a limited basis through the County Sheriff's West Valley Division; however, the County's discontinuation will require the City to assume full financial responsibility for staffing if the City wishes to maintain a dedicated clinician paired with a Sheriff's deputy.

Staff consulted with the Sheriff's Office, which reported that over the last two years of this program there have been 313 PERT responses in Cupertino. The Sheriff's Office highlighted that these teams provide vital support for mental health-related calls for service, operating daily from 1:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

In the letter, the County outlines two options for cities wishing to continue their own PERT programs:

1. Contract directly with a mental health services provider, with the County offering technical assistance.
2. Enter into a contract with the County to fund one or more full-time County mental health clinicians at an estimated cost of \$271,000 per position per year for FY 2026, with a required five-year commitment, totaling \$1,355,000 over the next five years.

This expense was not anticipated in the FY 25-26 budget and would require a new General Fund allocation to avoid a lapse of the program at the end of the calendar year.

The County letter indicates that positions assigned to City PERT programs may experience “significant turnover and/or vacancy periods” due to County layoff procedures and seniority rules, which may limit program reliability even if the City funds the clinician.

Next Steps

This item will be brought to Council as part of the law enforcement agreement discussion which is tentatively scheduled for December 2025. If Council decides to opt out of the program, starting January 2026, the City will no longer have a PERT clinician and would rely solely on a deputy, which is already covered under the City’s ongoing general law enforcement services contract. The County will continue to operate the enhanced Mobile Crisis Response Team system for mental health crisis response countywide, which will be available to support the Sheriff’s office on an on-call basis.

Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact.

City Work Program (CWP) Item/Description

None

Council Goal:

Quality of Life, Fiscal Strategy

California Environmental Quality Act

No California Environmental Quality Act impact.

Prepared by: Astrid Robles, Senior Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Kirsten Squarcia, Interim Deputy City Manager / City Clerk

Approved for Submission by: Tina Kapoor, Interim City Manager

Attachments:

None