

June 15, 2021

Mariana Moore, Chair
 Measure X Community Advisory Board
 County Administrator's Office
 1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
 Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board,

On behalf of the City of Richmond, we are writing to endorse the work of the Community Crisis Initiative, which is requesting Measure X funding for the development of a comprehensive system to respond to behavioral health crises in our community. The initiative is a partnership between cities from across the county and Contra Costa Health Services to develop a comprehensive community crisis response system that can be accessed by **anyone, anytime, anywhere**.

Since July 2020, a representative group of City Managers from the Contra Costa Public Managers Association (PMA) have been collaborating with Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS). Under the sponsorship of this group, a multi-disciplinary team, including law enforcement, community advocates, behavioral health staff, people with lived experience and others looked at existing capacities and created an initial framework where anyone in Contra Costa County can access timely and appropriate behavioral health care anywhere at any time. This team looked at best practices nationally, regionally, and locally, and held three week-long workshops to test various aspects of the model. **The model includes three components of a comprehensive crisis response system, including a virtual hub (regional call center), crisis response teams and alternate destinations.**

It has become clear to us that individuals involved in these emergency and crisis mental health situations need behavioral health interventions. We fully support the recommendations to develop a comprehensive crisis response system available 24/7 and serving all the regions and cities in the county. We are committed in Richmond to help support and even fund the new system which will also depend on stable funding available through the federal American Rescue Act and the State of California Department of Health Care Services in addition to other sources – all intended to support the expansion of a comprehensive mobile crisis system with mental health professionals.

We urge you as the Measure X Community Advisory Board to support this effort as well. Using Measure X funding to support the launch and development will go a long way to making sure that mobile crisis services are conducted in an age appropriate, geographically accessible, and culturally competent manner to all residents of Contra Costa County whatever their insurance status may be. This work is just what Measure

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X was intended to support, especially since all members of our county and all communities will benefit.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Tom Butt", written in a cursive style.

Tom Butt
Mayor

Laura Snideman
City Manager

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Laura Snideman", written in a cursive style.

CC: Richmond City Council
Lisa Driscoll, lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us