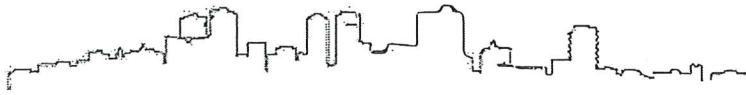


CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS



COUNCIL PROPOSAL

Date: 1/31/2023	File Number: 325	Subject: Adopt a Resolution to Develop a Child Assistance Response and Engagement (C.A.R.E.) For Minors Program as a Holistic Approach to Diverting Minors Involved with Status Offenses and Other Minor Offenses from the Justice System.	
Proposed By: CM Jared Williams, Ph.D.		City Manager's Review: <i>Ernesto Lopez for David Cooke</i>	Page:
		City Attorney's Review: <i>Deanna Brynna</i>	PAGE 1 OF 1

It is proposed that: the City Council adopt the attached resolution directing City management to develop a Child Assistance Response and Engagement (C.A.R.E.) for Minors Program and to recommend protocols designed to accomplish the goals of this program, as stated in the attached resolution.

LEGALITY:

The City Attorney's Office finds that this proposal is legal and within the authority of the City Council.

FISCAL NOTE:

The Director of Finance certifies that the development of this proposed program is projected to be accomplished with currently budgeted and appropriated staff and resources. As noted in the CP, implementation of a broader services program following the survey would require identification and appropriation of funding.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENT:

City staff will prepare an appropriate improvement package for consideration through the Fiscal Year 2024 budget process.

PROPOSED BY:

Jared Williams, Ph.D.
Councilmember - District 6

Chris Nettles
Councilmember - District 8

- ☐ LEGALITY
- ☐ FISCAL NOTE
- ☐ CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS
- ☐ CITY POLICIES MANUAL

A Resolution

NO. _____

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD ASSISTANCE RESPONSE AND ENGAGEMENT (C.A.R.E.) FOR MINORS PROGRAM AS A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO DIVERTING KIDS INVOLVED WITH STATUS OFFENSES AND OTHER MINOR OFFENSES FROM THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

WHEREAS the City of Fort Worth is home to more than 256,000 residents ages 17 and under, who continue to demonstrate both resilience and, at times, hardship while coping with and navigating adverse childhood experiences, especially as our entire community continues to recover and heal from the COVID-19 global pandemic.

WHEREAS the City Council has continued to demonstrate its commitment to ensuring our children are safe through actions including: investing in the One Second Collaborative to address and prevent youth gun violence, creating safe spaces for youth by eliminating youth membership fees at community centers, and partnering with community organizations to fund community-based crime prevention strategies through the Fort Worth Crime, Control, and Prevention District.

WHEREAS members of our community have urged the City of Fort Worth to divert kids involved in status offenses and other minor offenses from the justice system.

WHEREAS the City of Fort Worth recognizes status offenses as juvenile charges or adjudication for conduct that would not, under the law of the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed, be a crime if committed by an adult, such as being out late at night, running away, skipping school, and other minor offenses

WHEREAS the City of Fort Worth also recognizes status offenses by minors as behaviors that may be attributed to underlying adverse childhood experiences and trauma at home, school, or in their community.

WHEREAS the City of Fort Worth recognizes the potential adverse effects that early encounters with the justice system can have on a child's development and their ability to lead successful and productive lives as future adults.

WHEREAS the City Council is committed to partnering with our parents/guardians, educators, community leaders, and residents in doing everything in the City's authority to keep our youth safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS THAT:

1. The City Council supports the development of a holistic approach to diverting minors involved with status offenses and other minor offenses from the justice system.

2. To achieve this, the City Council supports directing City Management to develop a Child Assistance Response and Engagement (C.A.R.E.) for Minors Program and to recommend protocols designed to accomplish the goals of this program including:
 - a. Assemble trained interdisciplinary teams of caring adults that consist of at least a social worker, a firefighter EMT, a police officer, and two community members.
 - b. Provide dedicated C.A.R.E. for Minors teams assigned to respective service areas across Fort Worth that are responsible for providing support and resources to address the needs of affected minors and their families.
 - c. Develop an evidence-based protocol for C.A.R.E. for Minors services including: safety assessments, child needs assessment, parent/guardian communication and partnership, resource connections, and navigating kids to safe spaces.
 - d. Develop and require annual training for C.A.R.E. for Minors team members and provide a one-time financial incentive bonus upon completion of initial training. Training should cover topics including but not limited to: implicit bias, adverse childhood experiences and trauma, de-escalation, community resource navigation, and response plans.
 - e. Provide a 24/7 non-emergency hotline, so that the parents/guardians of minors at risk, other peers, or community members can call to request C.A.R.E. for Minors services for the minor(s) suspected of being involved with status offenses and other minor offenses.
 - f. Establish guidance on setting a non-enforceable recommended curfew for late-night hours that is advisory-only in nature and ensure C.A.R.E. for Minors teams are on-duty during these hours.
 - g. Establish educational program to train all City of Fort Worth employees, parents, minors, and businesses about the C.A.R.E. for Minors Program and how to get assistance for minors they're concerned are involved with status offenses and other minor offenses.
 - h. Divert minors involved with status offenses and other minor offenses from legal sanctions, court appearances, confinement, or other punitive action through the justice system.
3. The City Council requests that the City Manager:
 - a. Develop a plan of action and timeline for developing the C.A.R.E. for Minors Program to be presented to the City Council at a work session within 30 to 45 days.
 - b. Develop a budget for assembling and deploying a dedicated C.A.R.E. for Minors team in each police command division to be presented to the City Council at a work session within 90 additional days.
 - c. Identify a funding source and reserve capital to initiate this program.
4. Appropriation of funds shall require:
 - a. City Council approval of an appropriation ordinance.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

By: _____

Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary