



Galveston Police Department

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STAFF REPORT

Date February 23, 2022

To: City Manager
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Douglas Balli, Galveston Police Department, Chief of Police (In collaboration with Charles Olsen, Galveston Fire Department, Fire Chief)

Request:

Consider for approval to accept \$900,000.00 in grant funding and enter a partnership with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for the creation of a Multi-Disciplinary Response Team (MDRT) for the City of Galveston. The MDRT will be a collaborative effort between the Galveston Police Department, Galveston Fire Department, and the Gulf Coast Center to treat mental health issues.

Prior Council Action:

No prior council action has been taken however meetings and a press conference has been coordinated with Mayor Craig Brown in Council Chambers regarding this initiative.

Background:

Beginning under the leadership of Chief Vernon Hale the Galveston Police Department began the process of securing a partnership with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute to provide additional and expanded services to residents and visitors of Galveston Island who are suffering from mental illness. A process was initiated with numerous community and service-oriented stakeholders to fully assess the needs of the citizens of Galveston Island and the capabilities of various public and private service organizations. The data and information obtained during this process indicated a strong need for expanded mental health services in the City of Galveston.

The concept of the MDRT is to partner a police officer, a firefighter/paramedic, and a clinical mental health professional together so they operate as one cohesive team. This allows for three different service organizations with different resources and capabilities to provide a holistic





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response to a mental health crisis and address the root cause of the mental health crisis. Research has shown when this model of service is implemented not only do calls for service regarding mental health crisis diminish but also the quality of life of the individuals and the community improves. In addition, the MDRT model has been attributed to fewer arrests and hospitalizations of those affected by mental illness.

The MDRT model of mental health crisis response is not relegated to being a reactive unit waiting for an individual to suffer a mental health crisis. The MDRT is proactive in nature and partners with other community organizations to identify citizens and build relationships with them to prevent future mental health crisis. In being proactive and responding with multiple different resources the MDRT can provide real-time assistance and services to citizens with mental illness, improving their quality of life.

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (SUBGRANTOR) has awarded the City of Galveston (SUBGRANTEE) with \$900,000.00 in funds to secure the services of an MDRT mental health response through December 15, 2024. These funds are contingent upon the City of Galveston providing up to \$200,00 of in-kind and cash match for each, Police and Fire Department contribution for successful program development and implementation.

The Galveston Compassionate Open Access to Services and Treatment (COAST) Team is ready to begin providing services upon approval and acceptance of funding. Our partners with the Galveston Fire Department, Gulf Coast Center, and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute have worked tirelessly to ensure the best service possible is provided to the residents and visitors of Galveston Island when they are suffering a mental health crisis and for long-term care solutions.

Fiscal Impact Report

The fiscal impact of entering into this agreement and accepting grant funds:

Funding Source	Amount
GPD-Salaries, benefits, equipment	\$ 200,000.00
GFD-Salaries, benefits, equipment	\$ 200,000.00
	\$ -
Total	\$ 400,000.00





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Alternatives:

1. Approval of the partnership and acceptance of grant funding.
2. Do not approve the partnership and acceptance of grant funding.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the partnership and acceptance of grant funding (Alternative A).

Respectfully,

Douglas Balli
Chief of Police

Attachments

1. Statement of Work – City of Galveston – COAST Team
2. Statement of Work Appendices – City of Galveston – COAST Team
3. Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas – City of Galveston Subgrant Agreement

