

MOTION

NO. M-21-203

CITY HALL: June 17, 2021

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORENO, GLAPION, GIARRUSSO, BANKS AND
GISLESON PALMER**

WHEREAS, Section 3-127 of the Charter authorizes the appointment of advisory committees to provide the Council with counsel and advice; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R-21-196, approved unanimously by the New Orleans City Council on June 3, 2021, calls for the creation of a task force to develop a strategy around establishing a mobile crisis team, staffed by specially trained personnel who are not members of law enforcement, and who can be dispatched by Orleans Parish Communications District to respond to substance abuse and behavioral health crises for which police or EMS may not be an appropriate response; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the advisory committee is hereby established to provide recommendations concerning the implementation of a crisis response program for Orleans Parish. The advisory task force (hereafter referred to as Crisis Intervention Strategy Task Force (Task Force)) shall be established as follows:

1. The Task Force shall consist of 13 members and be appointed as follows: one member will serve as an appointee of the Mayor and one member will serve from each of the following entities: New Orleans Health Department, New Orleans Police Department, New Orleans Fire Department, New Orleans Emergency Medical Services, and Orleans Parish Communications District. The remaining seven appointees shall be selected by the City Council, with each Councilmember selecting one appointee.
2. Each appointee of the Task Force shall have a demonstrable record of scholarship, formal or informal, regarding: policing alternatives to include de-escalation trainings, crisis response and intervention, diversion initiatives and strategies, mental and clinical support, disability rights advocacy, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, emergency response and communications, or community engagement. Appointees shall also be considered with direct lived personal or familial experience with mental illness.
3. All appointees shall be confirmed by Council motion by August 1, 2021.
4. If appointments are not made by August 1, 2021, the New Orleans City Council President shall fill any remaining vacancies.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Task Force shall be responsible for:

1. Engaging stakeholders and the community.
2. Better informing a strategic policy framework through research on the current state of Orleans Parish emergency response to behavioral health and substance abuse crises.
3. Develop specific legislative recommendations to effectuate a health crisis intervention program here in New Orleans.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Task Force shall be required to hold a public hearing on its initial report within one month of its issuance, and shall provide a final report, incorporating any changes deemed necessary, to the Council no later than twelve months from the Task Force's first meeting. The task force shall commence meeting within 30 days after all appointments are confirmed.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members. The Task Force chair shall hold meetings at least once a month, at hours as many be fixed by the Task Force. The Task Force is also authorized to establish subcommittees in furtherance of providing aforementioned recommendations. All such meetings shall be subject to the provisions of the Louisiana Open Meeting Law. Special meetings may be held on call of the chair upon 24 hours notice to the members of the Task Force and the public. A copy of the minutes of all meetings shall be sent to the Council of the City of New Orleans. The Task Force shall have no legislative powers of its own but shall be an advisory body of the Council and the City of New Orleans concerning the matters with which it is charged.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Clerk of Council deliver certified copies to Mayor LaToya Cantrell; Dr. Jennifer Avegno, Director of the New Orleans Health Department; Superintendent Shaun D. Ferguson, New Orleans Police Department; Superintendent Roman Nelson, New Orleans Fire Department; Dr. Emily Nichols, Director of New Orleans' Emergency Medical Services; Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, Executive and Medical Director for Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD); and Tyrell Morris, Director of Orleans Parish Communications District.

**THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED
ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:**

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.