

RESOLUTION NO. 083-2024(PSH), *First Reading*

By Mayor Seren

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Cities of Shaker Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid and University Heights to establish and participate in a mental health crisis assistance program to be entitled the First CALL (for Crisis Assistance and Local Link) Program; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, the Cities of Cleveland Heights, Richmond Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights (the “Cities”) formed a Regional Council of Governments (“COG”) pursuant to Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code entitled the Heights-Hillcrest Communications Center (“HHCC”) to establish and operate a joint Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) Communications system for the dispatch of Police, Fire and EMS services in and for the Cities; and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2022, HHCC was dissolved and its members joined the Chagrin Valley Dispatch Council (“CVD”) while continuing to operate a separate Cleveland Heights Center within CVD; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shaker Heights created a pilot Mental Health Response Program (“MHRP”) by contracting with MetroHealth System’s Recovery Resources on November 1, 2021, and in November, 2022 Shaker Heights hired a full-time Licensed Independent Social Worker (“LISW”) to continue the work of the MHRP; and

WHEREAS, the MHRP responds to eligible crisis calls simultaneously with but separately from first responders. and engages with persons in crisis and first responders to assist the persons in crisis and provide ongoing follow-up support and referrals to programs; and

WHEREAS, in March, 2023, in response to the success of the MHRP, the Cities expressed interest in establishing a similar program to the MHRP, and have agreed to work together to establish a joint program to be entitled the First CALL (for Crisis Assistance and Local Linkage) Program, to be operated by the City of Shaker Heights on behalf of the five Cities; and

WHEREAS, the Cities applied for and received a grant from the Department of Justice COPS office, FY23 Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams – Community Police Development in the amount of \$399,846.00 as the initial source of funding for the First CALL Program with additional funding from the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County (\$523,131.00), the George Gund Foundation (\$200,000.00) and Cuyahoga County (\$75,000.00), and while seeking additional outside funding the Cities have agreed to provide funding to contribute to the start up and operation of the Program; and

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WHEREAS, Shaker Heights is separately entering into a contract on behalf of the Cities with Recovery Resources, affiliated with the MetroHealth System, to hire and train staff for the Program, with the extent of services to be provided subject to grant funding and City contributions; and

WHEREAS, the intended services will include the hiring by Recovery Resources of licensed mental health professionals and peer support specialists who will work in the Program in the five Cities and at the joint dispatch center operated by CVD; and

WHEREAS, for year one of the Program each City including Cleveland Heights will contribute Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-two Dollars (\$14,782.00), and for the second year Cleveland Heights will make an estimated contribution (based on population) of Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-eight Dollars (\$16,888.00) to the Program; and

WHEREAS, this Council desires to authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement establishing the First CALL Program, which Agreement shall be substantially in the form of the Agreement attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"**.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute an Agreement between and among the Cities of Cleveland Heights, Richmond Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights substantially in the form of the Agreement attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** for the establishment and operation of the First CALL Program for Years One and Two. Participation in subsequent years shall be subject to appropriation of funding by this Council.

SECTION 2. Notice of passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need make agreed-upon contributions on a timely basis. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and become immediately effective upon its passage; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

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TONY CUDA  
President of Council



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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council

PASSED: May 20, 2024

Presented to Mayor: 05/22/2024 Approved: 05/28/2024



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KAHLIL SEREN  
Mayor