

DATE: February 7, 2018

FROM: Rick Miera and Danny Whatley, Co-Chairs for MHRAC 2017

TO: File

SUBJECT: MHRAC Co-Chairs 2017 Report

2017 was a year of ups and downs for the Mental Health Response and Advisory Committee (MHRAC). It was an election year and a year of transition for not only the Mayor's Office, but also the City Attorney, the Police Chief and the majority of the command staff for the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). This transition caused the MHRAC to establish a "wait and see" approach to suggesting or trying to implement change. The main reason for this stagnant time was the comments of all the candidates for Mayor and eventually the finally two candidates that they had no intention of allowing the current administrations Police Chief and command staff to remain after the election.

Even with the above, the MHRAC was extremely busy. The committee continued and continues to be involved in Crisis Intervention Training at all levels within APD. We also continue to meet monthly with the Crisis Intervention Unit to review and discuss policies and training. The committee is also involved with input and recommendations to a pending memorandum of understanding between APD and the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) as it relates to sharing information between APD and UNMH concerning the patients they are treating, especially in the area of mental health. We have also worked closely with other agencies and groups to hammer out an issue concerning the issue of body camera footage that seems to be available to the general public. This issue became a concern when it was determined that the Court Appointed Settlement Agreement (CASA) requires APD to record via body cameras any encounter with anyone known to have experienced or has a history of mental health crisis. Because of the wording contained in the CASA, the subsequent policies reflected this language. Several within the MHRAC have been working on legislation to make it difficult for these recordings to be obtained by anyone that does not have a need to know or any interest, other than curiosity, in the video.

The above lists only a few of the achievements of the MHRAC. The MHRAC has lost several members and we will be rebuilding the committee in the first quarter of the New Year. We are looking forward to working with the new administration and feel that there is still a lot to be accomplished. We also feel that the City of Albuquerque, the new administration and leadership within APD wants to do what is best for our city, its citizens and our first responders. We look forward to a good year and a productive year within the MHRAC.

Rick Miera

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