

MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 13, 2022

Introduction

Pursuant to the Court Approved Settlement Agreement in *U.S. v. The City of Albuquerque*, the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) was created to “assist in identifying and developing solutions and interventions that are designed to lead to improved outcomes for individuals perceived to be or actually suffering from mental illness or experiencing a mental health crisis.” See Second Amended and Restated Court-Approved Settlement Agreement (Doc. 465-1), ¶ 111 (July 30, 2019). Additionally, it is the responsibility of MHRAC to “analyze and recommend appropriate changes to policies, procedures, and training methods regarding police contact with individuals with mental illness.” *Id.*

Accordingly, MHRAC members have been given an opportunity to analyze:

SOP 1-60 (CURRENTLY 8-3) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

MHRAC Recommendation(s)

Referencing SOP 1-60 (C)(1)(d)(i), a host agency’s policy overrides if it conflicts with APD’s policy.

MHRAC recommends that, absent jurisdictional conflicts, where APD’s policy is more protective of individuals with disability, behavioral, or mental health concerns, APD’s policy should prevail over the partner agency. Some contend that APD has some of the best de-escalation and use-of-force policies in the nation. It would be a shame that those could be forfeited when working with another law enforcement agency.

Thank you to APD and the City of Albuquerque for the opportunity to submit this feedback and for the continued collaboration on improving outcomes for our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Kauffman and Rachel Biggs,
MHRAC Co-Chairs