

RESOLUTION NO. 200680

Establishing a steering committee to study and recommend ways to effectively implement pre-trial diversions for Municipal Court defendants experiencing mental and substance abuse disorders.

WHEREAS, Council recently passed Ordinance No. 200573, directing the City Attorney to develop and implement a policy with the objective of offering pre-trial diversions to Municipal Court defendants for at least twenty percent of non-violent ordinance violations; and

WHEREAS, nationwide studies have shown up to sixty-eight percent of jail inmates have a substance abuse disorder, plus fourteen percent of men and thirty-one percent of women have a serious mental illness, or both; and

WHEREAS, many people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders who enter the criminal justice system have been arrested for minor offenses such as trespassing, public intoxication and other "nuisance" offenses; and

WHEREAS, early screening and prompt engagement in the Municipal Court system is a key to minimizing future contact with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City believes it is important to look for ways to reduce the municipal jail population and implement pre-trial diversions that divert those with mental health and substance abuse issues to programs offering needed services and housing;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. A steering committee to study pre-trial diversions for Municipal Court defendants for those experiencing mental and substance abuse disorders from the criminal justice system is hereby established.

Section 2. The steering committee, as appointed by the Mayor, shall consist of at least a one representative from the Mayor's office, a council member, two individuals with social service experience, one person from the CIT division of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, and a representative from Municipal Court.

Section 3. The steering committee shall elect a chair person and meet weekly for thirty days. The City Clerk shall staff the meeting and provide appropriate services as needed for the steering committee to meet at City Hall or virtually.

Section 4. Thirty (30) days from the first meeting, a summary of recommendations for implementation of a plan shall be provided to Council.

Resolution
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Authenticated as Passed



Quinten Lucas, Mayor



Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

AUG 27 2020

Date Passed