



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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John Naulty
Chief of Police

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August 17, 2021

Donna Moschetti, Chair
Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee

Dear Ms. Moschetti and Measure B Committee:

The Fort Bragg Police Department respectfully submits the request below for a Crisis Respite Facility and Services located in the City of Fort Bragg.

The Fort Bragg Police Department supports the need for accessible Crisis Respite (or Crisis Residential) services for Mendocino County Coastal residents, specifically near the city of Fort Bragg. The nearest Crisis Respite program in Mendocino County is located in Ukiah. Unfortunately, accessing inland Crisis Respite services by coastal residents and or officers of the Fort Bragg Police Officers is difficult, time-consuming, and often not practical. In addition, it takes away from providing services to the community we serve.

A majority of daily departmental calls require the involvement of mental health services. However, the department is not adequately educated or equipped as a mental health service professional. The officer must first diagnose the problem, whether the person meets the requirement for a mental health evaluation, danger to themselves or others, and gravely disabled; if these criteria are not met, the officer must then look at other available resources. Redwood Community Services (RCS) mental health response, hospital medical evaluation, Adult Protection response, and contact each agency recapping the events of the call for service, determine what course of action is needed. Another stumbling block in this process does the individual in crisis has private insurance or Medicare, if so, is not eligible; however, having a Crisis Respite program is available to every person regardless of insurance payer. The last resort is taking the individual into custody, not a valid solution for crisis support. In addition, these calls for service usually requires a response of two officers, and the Fort Bragg Police Department only has two officers working 12-hour shifts.

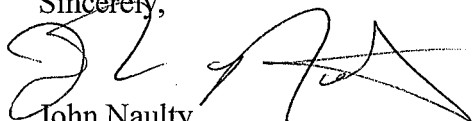
Therefore, a Crisis Respite offers a safe, comforting environment for those requiring mental health services. Crisis Respite is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provides an immediate opportunity to receive support. The inland Crisis Respite program "Madrone House" has demonstrated the benefits of a Crisis Respite program for inland Mendocino County residents. If this department could have access to this facility, it would require an officer to drive a person in a police car for 1.5 hours, amplifying the individual's distress and further delaying crisis intervention.

Having a Crisis Respite near the city of Fort Bragg would be a substantial benefit to community members in crisis, providing prompt care, allowing an officer to have an immediate resolution to the situation.

Utilizing Measure B funding to support a Crisis Respite program would benefit to the entire North Coastal Community.

The City of Fort Bragg is grateful for the work of the Measure B Committee continues to do and for the benefits that our community will experience because of your efforts. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our much-needed request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Naulty', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

John Naulty
Police Chief, Fort Bragg