

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-130**

2 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL APPROPRIATING**
3 **CITIZENS OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (COPS) GRANT FUNDS TO**
4 **ESTABLISH A 2-YEAR MOBILE CRISIS TEAM PILOT PROGRAM AND**
5 **UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE AMBULANCE SERVICES**

6 **WHEREAS**, the Albany Police Department has historically been the first responder to
7 calls for assistance related to persons in crisis found to be a danger to themselves or others, or
8 gravely disabled the person is placed on a mental health hold and transported to a psychiatric
9 facility by police; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the Albany Police Department had the ability to call Berkeley’s Mobile
12 Crisis Team to respond and assist with these calls, in July 2020, Alameda County Behavioral
13 Health took over providing this service but has thus far not met expectations due to limited
14 hours of service and extended response times; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, in Alameda County, John George Psychiatric Hospital is one of the main
17 locations people placed on a mental health hold can be transported by ambulance only for care,
18 but to adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in the California Health and Safety Code
19 Division 2.5, Sections 1797.52 and 1797.88 Albany Fire Department is unable to transport
20 individuals to John George Psychiatric Hospital because the facility does not have a true
21 emergency department, as well as travel to and from John George extends the time ambulance
22 service is not within the city; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Falck of Northern California, the contract provider for County
24 Emergency Medical Services removed the mental health transport requirement from their
25 contract; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, as an alternative way to better serve the community and lessen the Police
28 Department’s direct engagement with persons in crisis or experiencing homelessness staff is
29

1 proposing to create a 2-year Mobile Crisis Team Pilot Program and incorporate the use of a
2 private ambulance company to handle these specific transports, should the mobile crisis team
3 not be able to transport the individual and when an individual displays the need for medical
4 treatment, Albany Fire Department would be responsible for transporting the person to a
5 medical facility; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, Bonita House, Inc (BHI) a local non-profit 501 (c)(3) dual-diagnosis
8 behavioral health agency founded in 1971 located in Alameda County provides a full range of
9 services to adults with co-occurring serious mental health and substance use disorders would
10 be contracted to provide a 2-year Mobile Crisis Team Pilot Program in Albany; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the team would comprise a full-time Licensed Behavioral Health
13 Clinician and a Peer Support Specialist, supported by a part-time Data Analyst and a part-time
14 Director of Crisis Services to handle non-violent calls 5 days per week for service to persons
15 of all ages in crisis and or exhibiting symptoms of intoxication, disorientation or delusion and
16 respond to mobile crisis calls through 911 and non-emergency calls as well as provide follow-
17 up sessions to support residents in need; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, the team would also coordinate with other City Departments, Albany
20 CARES, and Albany Project HOPE to support persons experiencing homelessness in need of
21 mental health support to continue to navigate services and outreach about the new mobile crisis
22 team would include, but not be limited to presentations at school sites and city programs,
23 posting of flyers at City facilities and local businesses/organizations, and posting of
24 information on the City website and eNews; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, Bonita House, Inc. has extensive experience in providing crisis
27 intervention in a wide range of community settings preventing and managing crises in
28 apartment buildings, houses, street locations, or parks, the Licensed Behavioral Health
29 Clinician and Peer Support Specialist’s multimodal and holistic approach to assisting

1 individuals in crisis will greatly increase individuals' chances of accessing the least restrictive
2 environment needed to recover from their crisis and data collection, analysis, and reporting
3 will be conducted periodically to the City of Albany to determine program efficacy and
4 outcomes.

5
6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council hereby
7 appropriates Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) grant funds in the amount of \$650,000
8 to establish a 2-year Mobile Crisis Team Pilot Program and utilization of private ambulance
9 services to transport persons in crisis who are placed on a mental health hold.

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13 _____
14 PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR
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City of Albany

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PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

The 5th day of December, 2022, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members McQuaid, Nason, Tiedemann and Mayor Jordan

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this 6th
day of December, 2022.

Anne Hsu
CITY CLERK