



**HEARING NOTES**

**Bill: LO21-0015**

**Legislative Oversight EMS Statistics and Operations**

**Committee:** Public Safety and Government Operations

**Chaired by:** Mark Conway

**Hearing Date:** September 20, 2023

**Time (Beginning):** 1:00 PM

**Time (Ending):** 4:05 PM

**Location:** Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex Virtual Hearing

**Total Attendance:** Approximately 35 people

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Mark Conway	Kristerfer Burnett	Zeke Cohen
Odette Ramos	Phylicia Porter	Eric Costello

Bill Synopsis in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Attendance sheet in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Agency reports read? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?.....	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Final vote taken at this hearing? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

James Matz, Fire Department

Dr. Jeffrey Nusbaum, Fire Department

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**Major Issues Discussed**

1. Chairman Conway called the hearing to order, read the bill for LO21-0015 & LO23-0041 and introduced the committee members in attendance.
2. Chief Matz and Dr. Lawner presented on EMS statistics and operations (presentation in the file) and responded to committee member questions. Topics included:
  - a. EMS trends in neighborhoods
    - i. Discussed indicators and how resources are moved in the City.
  - b. Preempting addiction
    - i. Discussed the use of medication for people suffering from addiction but also the need for follow-up resources and the need to educate people on other resources such as 988 for mental health crises.
  - c. Correcting for population density and making sure that resources are distributed correctly.
    - i. Discussed a report that would look at census population v raw data.
  - d. BCRI – underfunded
  - e. Language barrier issues
    - i. Discussed the use and limitations of the language line.
    - ii. Hiring more bilingual staff particularly Spanish-speaking staff members.
    - iii. Use of additional technology including AI systems to help meet needs.
      1. Hiring of local tech company to help.
  - f. How are we thinking about leveraging opioid restitution funds?
    - i. Part of the issue is that BCFD is not set up for case management and needs partners to offer wrap-around services.
  - g. Would BCFD support a safe injection site?
    - i. Defer to health department.
  - h. Why are stabilization centers sending patients to the ER?
    - i. Patients can sometimes require more care than the center can provide prompting them to go to the ER or in some cases back to the ER.
3. Chairman Conway recessed the hearing.

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**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

**Yes**     **No**

**If yes, describe.**

1. A report that contrasts raw EMS call information v census population data

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**Committee Vote:**

M. Conway: .....  
K. Burnett: .....  
Z. Cohen: .....  
E. Costello: .....  
A. Glover: .....  
P. Porter: .....  
O. Ramos: .....

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Tony Leva,  
Committee Staff

Date: May 18, 2023

Cc: Bill File  
OCS Chrono File