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How to follow implementation and testing of Hayward community safety initiatives

HAYWARD, Calif., Sept. 13, 2021— The City of Hayward has established a [new webpage](#) for following implementation of new initiatives intended to address community concerns about policing and public safety in Hayward.

On May 18, the City Council directed City staff to begin testing and implementing nine high-priority initiatives that grew out of a series of community conversations on policing and public safety that took place in 2020 and a follow-up [Policy Innovation Workshop on Community Safety](#).

The workshop, conversations and an associated public opinion survey were part of a [Public Safety Community Outreach Project](#) undertaken in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn., on May 25, 2020, and the ensuing national dialogue on race and equity in policing and law enforcement in America.

One of the Innovation Workshop initiatives already under way in Hayward entails piloting a Mobile Evaluation Team (MET), which pairs Alameda County behavioral health clinicians with specially trained Hayward Police Department (HPD) district command police officers to respond to community members experiencing acute mental health crisis. It was launched in June.

Other Innovation Workshop initiatives include:

- A 911 dispatch needs assessment;
- Improving access to medical, mental health and other supportive services through the new Hayward Evaluation and Response Teams (HEART) program, which consists of two separate mobile teams: the MET (as described above) and a new Mobile Integrated

Health Unit (MIHU), which pairs a Hayward Fire Department (HFD) community paramedic with a mental health clinician from a community organization;

- The hiring of a behavioral health coordinator to provide daily coordination of the HEART program and improve the network of resources available to Hayward residents;
- Expanding shelter options and outreach services to unhoused residents through the City Manager's Office Division of Community Services;
- Expanded use of unarmed HPD community service officers;
- Community review of the HPD training curriculum; and
- Establishment of a community complaint liaison position

The new webpage for following progress on implementation and testing of these and future Innovation Workshop initiatives can be found on the City Hayward website at www.hayward-ca.gov/HaywardSafeDashboard.