



For Immediate Release

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Councilmember LaCava Denounces Response to Homeless Individual, Calls for Reform of Response to Behavioral Health Situations, and Funding for San Diego Mobile Crisis Response Team

San Diego —Yesterday, while attempting to detain an apparent homeless individual in La Jolla, a police officer repeatedly punched the individual in the face.

“This event was a tragedy and a disgrace,” said Councilmember LaCava. “This should not have happened. The Police Department has launched an investigation but officers should not be put in a position to address a situation better suited for behavioral health professionals. We must take immediate action to change how our city responds to these situations.”

In the coming weeks, Councilmember LaCava will release his final budget priority memo, which will formally request funding for Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRTs.) MCRTs are specialized, non-law enforcement professionals who are dispatched to de-escalate situations and safely connect individuals with care and mental health resources.

“This is not a matter of budgets, it is a matter of expertise and tools,” said Councilmember LaCava. “You would not send a doctor to arrest a criminal, police should not respond to mental health situations. This event obligated precious resources from the SDPD, the hospital, and the jails. This individual will likely be back on the street unconnected to resources. I demand better and will vote on the budget to require it.”

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