

Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar*
PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248 | midcoastcommunitycouncil.org

Gregg Dieguez | **Claire Toutant** | **Dan Haggerty** | **Scott Bollinger** | **Gus Mattammal**
Chair Vice-Chair Treasurer Secretary | **Ann Rothman** | **Kimberly Williams**

Date: June 28, 2023
To: Board of Supervisors
CC: Half Moon Bay City Council and GM; Jeff Essex (CARES)
From: Midcoast Community Council
Subject: Expansion and Funding of the CARES initiative

The Midcoast Community Council is writing for two reasons. First, to acknowledge the excellent work being done by the CARES pilot program on the coastside. The pilot program provides an alternative response to mental health-related 911 calls traditionally answered by fire, ambulance, or law enforcement. The program keeps detailed analytics on its performance, and the initial results are extremely positive: stabilization rates are high, escalations to law enforcement or medical response teams are low, and the degree of follow-up by the CARES team to participants in the program is impressive.

CARES serves a population and geographic area in the Unincorporated area both equivalent to the City of Half Moon Bay. Thus, the MCC is requesting funding of \$275,000 in support of the CARES program, provided to the City of Half Moon Bay to compensate for the \$550,000 funding they are providing to the program.

The second reason we are writing is to recommend to the County that given the notably positive results from the pilot program, the CARES program should be considered for scaling to serve a wider area. We understand that the County has more than one program underway to explore alternatives to traditional policing for certain types of service calls, and we support those efforts. We are simply suggesting that CARES be considered one of the programs in a portfolio of programs that can be rolled out across the County in whatever way optimizes public safety and makes the most efficient use of law enforcement resources.

In a time of constrained resources, greater incidence of mental health issues, and increasing scrutiny of the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve, programs like the CARES program represent an important innovation in emergency response. We hope the County will carefully consider expanding the reach of the CARES program beyond the coastside. .

s/Gregg Dieguez, Chair