

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 5

June 3, 2016

SUBJECT: TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR SWORN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

PURPOSE: The Los Angeles Police Department has a variety of specialized units, details, and taskforces that have been formed in order to support the City's growing population of people experiencing homelessness. These homeless outreach programs which include, but are not limited to, Resources Enhancement Services Enforcement Team (RESET), Homeless Outreach Partnership Endeavor (HOPE), the Beach Detail, and the Community Response Team (CRT), share a common objective: to enhance the safety of the homeless population through the use of outreach, coordination with service providers, and enforcement of applicable laws. The Department recognizes that within the homeless population there are a large number of people who suffer from mental illness. Officers assigned to homeless outreach programs, therefore, have a greater likelihood of encounters with mentally ill persons. While the Department expects that officers encountering persons suffering from mental illness be guided by the principles of compassion, support, and humanity, it recognizes that these contacts can be unpredictable, volatile, and dangerous.

The purpose of this Order is to ensure that Department personnel assigned to homeless outreach programs receive in-depth training with a focus on recognition of mental illness and strategies to seek safe resolution of contacts with persons suffering mental illness.

PROCEDURES:

- I. **ALL SWORN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED OR LOANED TO HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAMS.** All sworn personnel, to include police officers and supervisors, herein referred to as "personnel" or "employees," shall complete the Mental Health Intervention Training (MHIT), *prior* to beginning an assignment or loan to a homeless outreach program.

Personnel who were assigned to a homeless outreach program prior to the publication of this Order, and upon approval of the bureau commanding officer, may continue working in a homeless outreach capacity, but shall complete MHIT within *six* months.

- II. **SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES.** Supervisors assigned or loaned to a homeless outreach program shall ensure that all personnel complete the MHIT *prior* to beginning the assignment. Personnel who have not completed MHIT shall not be assigned to a homeless outreach program until this training requirement has been met.

Supervisors shall ensure that all personnel who were assigned to a homeless outreach program prior to the publication of this Order, and upon approval of the bureau commanding officer, may continue working in a homeless outreach capacity, but shall complete MHIT within *six* months.

III. TRAINING COORDINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES. Area Training Coordinators shall ensure that all personnel assigned or loaned to homeless outreach programs are scheduled to attend the next available MHIT. Upon completion of the training, the Area Training Coordinator shall verify that the training is documented in the employee's Training Evaluation and Management System (TEAMS) report.

IV. AREA COMMANDING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES. Area commanding officers shall ensure adherence to the established protocols delineated in this Order. An extension to the MHIT training requirement may be requested via Intradepartmental Correspondence, Form 15.02.00, to the bureau commanding officer under the following conditions:

- A one-time *six* month extension to the training requirement may be requested for any personnel who were assigned to a homeless outreach program prior to the publication of this Order. The extension will allow applicable personnel to continue working in a homeless outreach capacity until the training requirement is met or the extension expires.
- An extension to the training requirement may be requested, on a case-by-case basis, for any employee unable to complete the training requirement due to, but not limited to, an injury on duty, medical or military leave. However, upon return to full duty, the employee shall complete MHIT within *six* months.
- Due to operational necessity, an extension to the training requirement may be requested for any employee. This approval shall be obtained prior to the employee working in a homeless outreach capacity. Upon assignment, the employee shall complete MHIT within *six* months.

The Area commanding officer or designee shall be responsible for tracking all extensions and coordinating with the applicable homeless outreach program.

V. BUREAU COMMANDING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES. Bureau commanding officers may grant a one-time extension to the training requirement under the following conditions:

- Personnel who were assigned to a homeless outreach program prior to the publication of this Order may be granted a one-time *six* month extension to the training requirement. The extension will allow applicable personnel to continue working in a homeless outreach capacity until the training requirement is met or the extension expires.
- Employees unable to complete the training requirement due to, but not limited to, an injury on duty, medical or military leave may be granted an extension to the training requirement on a case-by-case basis. However, upon return to full duty, the employee shall complete MHIT within *six* months.
- Due to operational necessity, an extension to the training requirement may be granted to any employee. This approval shall be obtained prior to the employee working in a homeless outreach capacity. Upon assignment, the employee shall complete MHIT within *six* months.

