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Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 88699 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER KALB

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY BILL 988 WHICH WOULD STATE THE LEGISLATURE'S INTENT TO IMPLEMENT A THREE-DIGIT PHONE LINE, 9-8-8, FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING SUICIDAL AND OTHER IMMEDIATE MENTAL HEALTH CRISES TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE LIFE SAVING CARE

WHEREAS, the nation is facing a mental health crisis. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of adults in the United States experiencing mental illness increased by 1.5 million people, meaning nearly one in five adults is living with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the national suicide rate increased by 30 percent over the last two decades. In 2018, there were an estimated 1.4 million suicide attempts and more than 48,000 deaths by suicide, making it the 10th leading cause of death among adults and the second leading cause of death among young people; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, this crisis has only continued to worsen with increasing rates of anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicidal ideation. One in six Californians continue to experience mental illness, and only one-third report receiving any treatment; and

WHEREAS, for those unable to access care, the criminal justice system has become the default mental health system in California when, in times of crisis, individuals and their families feel they have no option but to call the police for help. While law enforcement is often the most relied-upon institution during a mental health crisis, providing mental health services or care is not and should not be their role; and

WHEREAS, currently, 10 percent of all law enforcement agencies' budgets and 20 percent of staff time are spent responding to individuals with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, as a direct consequence of this overreliance on law enforcement responses to a public health crisis, approximately 25 percent of all fatal police-involved shootings since 2015 involved a mental illness, with Black men dying disproportionately; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the federal government enacted the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, establishing the “988” suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline, which must be fully implemented nationally by July, 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a “988” crisis line will do all of the following: Connect a person in a mental health crisis to a trained counselor to address their immediate needs, deploy mobile crisis support teams as an alternative to law enforcement response to provide crisis intervention services when necessary, and ensure individuals are referred to ongoing mental health care when necessary; and

WHEREAS, switching to an easy-to-remember “988” for suicide prevention and mental health crisis services will connect more people with the appropriate and lifesaving care they need, just as “911” does for other types of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to implement the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, in compliance with the Federal Communication Commission’s rules adopted by July 16, 2022, designating “988” as a three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline; and

WHEREAS, a 988 hotline would mesh well with Oakland’s new MACRO civilian crisis response effort; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill 988 (Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act), authored by Assembly Members Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Chiu, Quirk-Silva, Ting, Gipson, and Ramos would state the Legislature’s intent to enact legislation to implement the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, in compliance with the Federal Communication Commission’s rules adopted by July 16, 2022, designating “988” as a three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby endorses AB 988 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

JUN 15 2021

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:


AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT
FORTUNATO BAS - 8

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST:


ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California

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