



CROS Advocacy Alert

There is an important advocacy opportunity for supporters of the Coalition for Re-envisioning our Safety and Care Based Safety. **We need you to: 1) Present a public comment to City Council, and/or 2) Email your Rep!**

Read below for more information and to take action to support Care Based Safety/unarmed response in our community!

On Monday, Dec 18th, the City decided in a closed session to cancel the RFP for creating an unarmed response program for which [Care-Based Safety](#) (CBS) was the only applicant. An RFP is a “request for proposals” that the city puts out when it wants to hire a group to provide a specific service. City staff drafts RFPs, they are approved by council members, and then staff reads and scores the applications to ultimately award the job to the applicant of their choosing. In this case, the RFP was to award \$3.5M to a group who will develop, implement, and run an unarmed response program in Ann Arbor.

Care-Based Safety was formed in response to community calls for an unarmed response program. While CROS was organizing with the community around the city’s process, ensuring adequate funding and care-based values, CBS was growing from the ground up to be able to hold and run the eventual unarmed response program. You can read more about this process from CBS’ perspective on their [instagram](#).

Not receiving these \$3.5M may have a huge impact on our community in delaying, damaging, or eliminating services that are absolutely necessary to keep people safe in our community.

What You Can Do

1) Attend the [Ann Arbor City Council meeting on Monday January 11th at 7 PM](#) and give public comment encouraging them to negotiate a contract with Care Based Safety (see below). Please [sign up here in our Google Form](#) to let us know you’ll be speaking on 1/11/24.

How to sign up for public commentary at a city council meeting

*****You may also reply to this email if you want us to personally walk you through signing up to speak at council!!**

Any member of the public may reserve public commentary time at the beginning of a Council meeting. Call the city clerk’s office at 734.794.6140 beginning at 8 a.m. on the day of the meeting to reserve one of 10 public speaking times. Priority is set by City Council Rules, currently giving priority to those who have not previously spoken at the last two meetings and those who wish to address Council on agenda items. Please note: Speakers may not use public commentary-reserved time to address Council on an agenda item for which a public hearing is scheduled for the same meeting. There is also general public



commentary at the end of each meeting. No special advanced notification is necessary to speak during general time, and there is no limit to the number of people who can speak at this time.

We want speakers to:

- a) thank the Ann Arbor City Council for unanimously supporting unarmed response
- b) ask the City Council to provide direct communication to the community on why the Care Based Safety contract wasn't selected and why those reasons can't be mitigated by directly negotiating with Care Based Safety
- c) to encourage the City Council to direct staff to approve/negotiate the contract with Care Based Safety so we can operationalize these resources as soon as possible
- d) explain WHY an unarmed response provided by Care Based Safety matters to YOU
 - i) example: "I've experienced situations where I'd prefer not to call the police, but didn't feel like I had other options."

2) Email City of Ann Arbor Council Members TODAY and encourage them to negotiate a contract with Care Based Safety (see below). Submit written comments to the City Council via email to citycouncil@a2gov.org by Monday, January 8th at 5pm.

Email template/talking points:

YOU CAN CAN SEND AN EMAIL DIRECTLY TO ALL OF CITY COUNCIL HERE or Find your Rep here & copy/paste from below:

Dear Council Members and Mayor Taylor -

I am writing to express my support for moving forward with the Care Based Safety proposal for unarmed response. First, I want to thank you for your support of unarmed response in our community.

The Care Based Safety proposal was designed for the community, by the community. It was well researched, designed specifically with the Ann Arbor community in mind, and drafted by and for Ann Arborites that will directly benefit from such a program. Further, it is built upon something that is unburdened by outdated paradigms and carceral systems.

I understand that the RFP was canceled. In the case that you've not had the opportunity to read over the full proposal, I ask that you take the time to do so [here](#), and to re-read the [RFP](#) that the proposal is responding to.



[INSERT MORE INFO/REQUESTS/REASONS WHY UNARMED RESPONSE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU HERE]

For these reasons, I am requesting the following -

- **Transparency:** I am asking Council to provide direct communication to CBS and to the public on why the Care-Based Safety contract wasn't selected and why those reasons can't be mitigated by directly negotiating with Care Based Safety.
- **Approval/negotiation of the contract:** I am encouraging the City Council to direct staff to approve the contract with Care-Based Safety or to re-open the RFP and negotiate with CBS so we can operationalize these resources as soon as possible
- **Swiftness:** I am requesting that Council treat this with the urgency it deserves. The ARPA funds are time bound and more than that, people in our community desperately need these resources **now**.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Your emails, calls, and public comments MATTER. Thank you for taking the time to express your support for Care Based Safety in our community!