



City of Fort Bragg

416 N Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Phone: (707) 961-2823
Fax: (707) 961-2802

Meeting Agenda Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

3:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

Committee Members are reminded that pursuant to the Council policy regarding use of electronic devices during public meetings adopted on November 28, 2022, all cell phones are to be turned off and there shall be no electronic communications during the meeting. All e-communications such as texts or emails from members of the public received during a meeting are to be forwarded to the City Clerk after the meeting is adjourned.

ZOOM WEBINAR INVITATION

This meeting is being presented in a hybrid format, both in person at Town Hall and via Zoom.

When: Nov 19, 2025 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Public Safety Committee Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84068442054>

Or join by telephone:

*+1 669 444 9171 US (*6 mute/unmute; *9 raise hand)*

*+1 719 359 4580 US (*6 mute/unmute; *9 raise hand)*

Webinar ID: 840 6844 2054

To speak during public comment portions of the agenda via zoom, please join the meeting and use the raise hand feature when the Chair or Acting Chair calls for public comment on the item you wish to address. Written public comments may be submitted to Administrative Assistant Laura Godinez at lgodinez@fortbragg.ca.gov.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1A. [25-469](#) Approve Minutes of the Special Public Safety Committee Meeting of October 22, 2025

Attachments: [PSCM 2025-10-22](#)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 3A. [25-477](#) Continued Discussion Regarding Dispatch Services for the Fort Bragg Police Department
- 3B. [25-508](#) Grand Jury Report and Care Response Unit Statistics

Attachments: [Staff Report-PSC Grand Jury Report.docx](#)
[Homelessness GJ Report.pdf](#)

4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

ADJOURNMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)ss.
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO)

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the City of Fort Bragg and that I caused this agenda to be posted in the City Hall notice case on Friday November 14, 2025.

Laura Godinez, Administrative Assistant

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOLLOWING AGENDA PACKET DISTRIBUTION:

- *Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Council/District/Agency after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the lobby of City Hall at 416 N. Franklin Street during normal business hours.*
- *Such documents are also available on the City of Fort Bragg's website at <http://city.fortbragg.com> subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting*

ADA NOTICE AND HEARING IMPAIRED PROVISIONS:

It is the policy of the City of Fort Bragg to offer its public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities.

If you need assistance to ensure your full participation, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 961-2823. Notification 48 hours in advance of any need for assistance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

This notice is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (28 CFR, 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).



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Text File

File Number: 25-469

Agenda Date: 11/19/2025

Version: 1

Status: Minutes to be Approved

In Control: Public Safety Committee

File Type: Committee Minutes

Agenda Number: 1A.

Approve Minutes of the Special Public Safety Committee Meeting of October 22, 2025



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Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

3:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

AMENDED SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Peters called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Staff Present: Interim Chief Eric Swift, Commander Jonathan McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Remington.

Presents are Chair Lindy Peters and Councilmember Scott Hockett.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1A. [25-451](#) Approve Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting February 19, 2025

Attachments: [PSCM 2025-02-19.pdf](#)

Chair Peters motions, Councilmember Hockett seconds the motion. Minutes are approved as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public Comments made by:

Megan
Michelle Roberts
Jenny Shattuck
Bernadette Rafanan
Judy Valadao

3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 3A. [25-450](#) Discussion Regarding Dispatch Services for the Fort Bragg Police Department

Attachments: [City of Ukiah Dispatch- Contract.pdf](#)

Chair Peters introduced talking points on Dispatch Contract Necessity.

Discussion: Chief Swift discussed logistics and statistics of dispatch contract with Ukiah.

Commander McLaughlin discussed cost/operational benefits of outsourcing to Ukiah. Discussion continued about dispatch training given to Fort Bragg dispatchers and reports of distress called going unassigned by dispatch for Police response. A new, entry level program called R.I.M.S. should alleviate some of those concerns.

Public Comment: Elise Cox, Gabriel Maroney, Frank Hartzell, Jenny Shattuck, Chelsea, Judy Martin, and Jacob Patterson.

4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

Chair Peters discussed the need for E-bike regulations on the coastal trails.

Chief Swift addressed concerns from the public regarding AI flock software. Any AI software the department currently employs is specifically used for vehicle make and plate information when BOLOs are in effect. He reminds the public to apply for or recommend others apply for open positions at the Police department.

Commander McLaughlin reported on upcoming events in the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.



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Text File

File Number: 25-477

Agenda Date: 11/19/2025

Version: 1

Status: Business

In Control: Public Safety Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number: 3A.

Continued Discussion Regarding Dispatch Services for the Fort Bragg Police Department



City of Fort Bragg

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Text File

File Number: 25-508

Agenda Date: 11/19/2025

Version: 1

Status: Business

In Control: Public Safety Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number: 3B.

Grand Jury Report and Care Response Unit Statistics



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee **DATE:** November 19, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

PREPARED BY: Thomas O'Neal, Police Captain

PRESENTER: Thomas O'Neal, Police Captain

AGENDA TITLE: Grand Jury Report-Care Response Unit Statistics

RECOMMENDATION

Provide feedback on the suggested data and information to be included in the report to the City Council on Care Response Unit statistics as requested by the Mendocino County Grand Jury.

BACKGROUND

On April 17, 2025, the Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury issued a report titled Homelessness: A County-Wide Issue. The report provided an in-depth review of homeless programs in Mendocino County and included a recommendation that the Fort Bragg Police Department present *"verified results from the Care Response Unit program, both positive and negative, to be reported to the City Council of Fort Bragg by December 2025."*

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Care Response Unit (CRU) has been working for the past two months on identifying what data and information should be included in the Grand Jury-requested report to City Council. CRU reviewed all of its applicable programs, began a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis, and reached out to other similar programs in the county to request what data or benchmarks of success those programs used.

Presenting data related to CRU remains a complicated process, as much of the data is qualitative in nature and CRU routinely tailors its approach to the presented problem as opposed to having a generalized approach to services. Additionally, the CRU program encompasses several sub-programs, including Project Right Now (PRN), Proposition 47, Extreme Weather Shelter, and Homeward Bound. Each of these programs tracks different data, either due to funding requirements or services provided.

After a comprehensive review staff recommends that, at a minimum, the following 22
The purpose of this staff report is to identify alternative data options that may be

AGENDA ITEM NO. XX

presented in place of the recommended dataset. points of data be presented to City Council:

Care Response Unit

1. Referrals to mental health services
2. Referrals to outpatient substance use disorder (SUD) treatment
3. Individuals screened for services
4. Arrest statistics related to homelessness
5. Statistics related to individuals obtaining inpatient SUD treatment

Proposition 47

1. Statistics related to transitional housing assignments
2. Data related to client employment
3. Number of referrals received for Mendocino County organizations (out-of-jurisdiction clients)
4. Number of unique individuals served
5. Client recidivism data

Project Right Now (Fentanyl Task Force)

1. Number of doses of Narcan distributed
2. Number of individuals trained in Narcan use
3. Number of client referrals for PRN services
4. Outreach data
5. Number of clients who have received PRN services

Extreme Weather Shelter

1. Number of unique individuals who have used the program
2. Number of bed nights provided

Homeward Bound

1. Number of uses

2. Dispositions

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

Requests for additional data or research can have a diverse impact on staff resources based on the information requested.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

No environmental impact identified.

STRATEGIC PLAN/COUNCIL PRIORITIES/GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY

This research project aligns with City of Fort Bragg Strategic Plan Goal 5A.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The CRU Team has held two public stakeholder meetings in 2025 related to receiving public feedback and suggestions related to the program.

The CRU Team has held two public meetings in the last six months of the Proposition 47 Local Advisory Committee where public comment and feedback is allowed.

The CRU Team routinely takes and fulfills information requests from members of the public and both government and non-profit organizations.

ALTERNATIVES:

The purpose of this staff report is to identify alternative data options that may be presented in place of the recommended datasets.

ATTACHMENTS:

Grand Jury Report: Homelessness: A County-Wide Issue

NOTIFICATION:

None identified.

2024-25 Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury

April 17, 2025

HOMELESSNESS: A COUNTY-WIDE ISSUE



HOMELESSNESS

A COUNTY-WIDE ISSUE

SUMMARY

The 2024-25 Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) investigated the Care Response Unit (CRU) established in the City of Fort Bragg (Fort Bragg), reviewing intent, operation and future sustainability. The investigation focused on research and studies of unhoused individuals (the homeless) in present day Mendocino County with guidance from sources including the 2019 *Marbut Report* commissioned by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Mendocino County agencies are also developing a program called Community Outreach Response and Engagement (CORE), similar to CRU, to address the homeless problem. The CORE program integrates the resources of the County Behavioral Health Department, Social Services Department and the Sheriff's Office.

The Grand Jury consensus is that while some homeless issues have been resolved, other solutions are underway. The Grand Jury appreciates the City of Fort Bragg taking the lead in effectively addressing homelessness in the coastal region of Mendocino County (County).

Homelessness is endemic in the County. The Grand Jury is confident CRU will continue to inspire CORE and other programs for the unhoused.

DEFINITIONS

- CRU – Care Response Unit,
- CORE – Community Outreach Response and Engagement,
- BOS – Board of Supervisors,
- Measure B – A sales tax measure passed in 2017, it approved a 0.5% sales tax increase for five years and decreased to 0.125% thereafter. It was guaranteed to help fund mental health resources throughout the County. Measure B funds have assisted several mental health care facilities such as the Crisis Residential Treatment Facility in Ukiah, the Fort Bragg Crisis Respite Center and the Behavioral Health Regional Training Center in Redwood Valley. In August 2024, Mendocino County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services broke ground on a new psychiatric health facility in Ukiah.

- The Marbut Report – A study on homelessness, *Mendocino County Homeless Data Findings and Recommendations Report*, commissioned by the Mendocino County BOS in the 2018-19 session.

BACKGROUND

The CRU program in Fort Bragg is designed and based on information gleaned from *The Marbut Report*. Dr. Robert G. Marbut, Jr., PhD, is a nationally recognized homelessness expert commissioned by the BOS to conduct a study similar to those completed in Seattle, Washington and Placer County, California. On March 15, 2018, Dr. Marbut's *Mendocino County Homeless Data Findings and Recommendations Report* was presented in a live public forum in Ukiah, with video feed to Fort Bragg.

Dr. Marbut's study evaluated the homeless situation in Mendocino County and offered practical solutions to ease, if not fully resolve, the issue. Many of the recommendations were adopted by the BOS. The CRU program, inspired by the *Marbut Report*, was developed and implemented specifically by and for Fort Bragg.

The Fort Bragg Police Department took the lead in developing and implementing the CRU program with the support from the City Council and the Mayor. At that time, the homeless population of the area had been causing significant problems for the residents and business owners in Fort Bragg.

METHODOLOGY

When the Grand Jury receives a complaint, it is presented in a plenary session where it is confidentially discussed, after which a vote is taken to reject, table or investigate the complaint. If rejected, no other action is taken. If tabled, the complaint may be considered in the following year with a new Grand Jury. If the vote is to investigate, a committee is chosen to begin research and investigation. Interviews are conducted with complainants and other stakeholders.

The Grand Jury investigated Fort Bragg's CRU program and conducted interviews with Fort Bragg and County officials, police and sheriff personnel, and other advocates for the homeless to gather information. In addition, the Grand Jury reviewed documentation, news reports and studies on homelessness.

DISCUSSION

The CRU program involves police outreach, mental health services, protection and temporary housing for homeless persons as they are located and identified within the Fort Bragg city limits. The Grand Jury interviewed Fort Bragg police and city management personnel and was encouraged by the information gathered during those interviews. While the program began as completely grant-funded, the Grand Jury became aware of cooperative efforts with other County agencies supporting CRU, including the planned infusion of \$500,000 of Measure B funds to be paid over a two-year period.

The CRU program in Fort Bragg, which is law enforcement driven, is unique in the County and praise has been given to the project as it was developed and implemented. Dr. Marbut's study was the principal foundation for the plan.

The participating Fort Bragg police officers are trained to offer kind and concerned contact, leading to various methods of help for the individual. This method of encounter is coupled with plain-clothed outreach workers who offer help in the form of food, shelter, medical assistance, counseling and temporary housing.

Individuals experiencing homelessness are often categorized in three groups:

- Those who need help and readily accept it,
- those who are reluctant but need and may accept help when the benefits offered make sense to them,
- and those in a third group, frequently made up of persons with substance use disorders or persons with mental health imparities who continue to decline assistance or services.

For those who will not quickly accept assistance, a motivational strategy is used. If an approached individual accepts assistance and services or can be convinced it is in their best interest to accept it, that help is given. If the individual declines assistance, the person is asked the location of their home or former home and the name of a family member, friend, or acquaintance at the referenced location. The CRU personnel then communicate with the contact person or persons and the homeless individual is entrusted to their care and provided with transportation home.

The Grand Jury has not received any outcome results, but at the time of this report the CRU program is experiencing much local praise and positive media attention and is now being copied and studied by various cities in California and beyond. The University of California, Los Angeles is evaluating the program for wider implementation. **F1**

A criticism of the CRU program shows that individuals who decline services frequently leave the city limits. If an individual does not have an adequate home to which they can return, CRU personnel may transport the individual to outside city limits to join a nearby homeless encampment.

The Fort Bragg Police Department's plan to counter this criticism is to bring CRU to nearby towns from Cleone to Elk, including Caspar, Mendocino, Little River and Albion. These small towns do not have their own law enforcement agencies and rely on the Sheriff's Office for support. The Sheriff's Office covers the coast from Gualala to Rockport, nearly 100 miles, with only two deputies.

At the time of this report, Fort Bragg has a successful homeless program in place. **F2**

Similar to CRU, the CORE program will address the homeless problem throughout the County, integrating the resources of the County Behavioral Health Department, Social Services Department and the Sheriff's Office. The CORE program will utilize much of the CRU concept and will augment the County-wide project. **F3**

CONCLUSION

The Grand Jury commends the City of Fort Bragg for designing and implementing a workable, friendly and vitally essential program. Because homelessness is endemic in Mendocino County, the Grand Jury is confident CRU will continue to inspire cooperation with other cities and programs in the County.

While the homeless situation in Mendocino County is not yet dire, programs to address the issue before it becomes horrific are essential. It will be in the best interest of Mendocino County to develop and implement answers to prevent the expansion of homelessness. The Grand Jury believes CORE or other programs developed by the County should be designed to integrate well with the proven methods of CRU.

In a well-crafted letter to Malvolio in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Maria states: "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." The Grand Jury hopes Mendocino County will achieve greatness by developing and implementing a program to alleviate homelessness, while remembering that the unhoused are human beings deserving care that is sensitive and adequate.

FINDINGS

F1. At the time of this report, the Grand Jury has not received outcome results from the Care Response Unit that would verify the success of the program.

F2. The Care Response Unit is an exemplary, well-established program that addresses the critical needs of the visible homeless population in the City of Fort Bragg.

F3. Mendocino County's Community Outreach Response and Engagement program has the potential to become a broad, countywide program that will work well with the established Care Response Unit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury recommends that verified results from the Care Response Unit program, both positive and negative, be reported to the City Council of Fort Bragg by December 2025. (F1)

R2. The Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Community Outreach Response and Engagement program developers continue to collaborate with the County Behavioral Health, Social Services, Sheriff's Office and other County departments and program managers to work with the Care Response Unit. (F3)

REQUESTS FOR RESPONSES

Pursuant to California Penal Code §§ 933 and 933.05, the Civil Grand Jury requests each entity or individual named below to respond to the enumerated Findings and Recommendations within specific statutory guidelines.

Responses to Findings shall be either:

- The respondent agrees with the finding.
- The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

Responses to Recommendations shall be one of the following:

- The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
- The recommendation has not been implemented but will be in the future, within a specific period.
- The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be

prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency where applicable. This time shall not exceed six months from the date of the publication of the Civil Grand Jury report.

- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.

REQUIRED RESPONSE – Within 90 days
Fort Bragg City Council (F1, F2 and R1, R2)

REQUIRED RESPONSE – Within 60 days
Mendocino County Sheriff (F3 and R2)

INVITED RESPONSES – Within 60 days
Department of Behavioral Health Director (F3 and R2)
Department of Social Services Director (F3 and R2)
Fort Bragg Police Department Captain (F1, F2, and R1)

RESPONSES ARE TO BE SENT TO:

The Honorable Ann Moorman
Superior Court Judge, County of Mendocino
100 North State Street, Dept. E
Ukiah CA 95482

Office of the County Counsel
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1030
Ukiah CA 95482

Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1500
Ukiah CA 95482

This report is issued by the Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury 2024-25.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CIVIL GRAND JURY FINDINGS

The Civil Grand Jury derives Findings from testimony and evidence. All testimony and evidence given to the Civil Grand Jury remains confidential by law, and it is the Civil Grand Jury's responsibility to maintain it. California Penal Code § 929 provides "... the name of any person, or facts that lead to the identity of any person who provided information to the Civil Grand Jury, shall not be released." Further, 86 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 101 (2003) prohibits Civil Grand Jury witnesses from disclosing anything learned during their appearance including testimony given. This is to ensure the anonymity of witnesses and to encourage open and honest testimony.

EXHIBIT A – The Mendocino County Marbut Report

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/70475/638785967169800000>