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MEMORANDUM

Date: July 8, 2020

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Reform

From: Chris Skinner, Chief of Police

Subject: Law Enforcement Partnerships with Mental Health Teams—CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets)

Good Morning Co-Chairs Bynum and Manning and Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Chris Skinner. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Eugene and it is my pleasure today to provide testimony regarding CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets), and the partnership this important organization has with the Eugene Police Department.

CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) is a mobile crisis intervention program staffed by White Bird Clinic personnel using City of Eugene vehicles. This relationship has been in place for nearly 30 years and is well embedded in the community. CAHOOTS provides support for EPD personnel by taking on many of the social service type calls for service to include crisis counseling. CAHOOTS personnel often provide initial contact and transport for people who are intoxicated, mentally ill, or disoriented, as well as transport for necessary non-emergency medical care. CAHOOTS is dispatched on EPD's service channel and calls are triaged through the Central Lane Communication Center. Each van is staffed with a medic (nurse or EMT) and an experienced crisis worker.

