

**David Weinreb, Fair Haven Community Management Team**  
**Testimony Supporting SB 572:**  
**An Act Concerning Community Crisis Response Teams and Reentry Centers.**  
**Legislative Office Building**  
**2/10/2021**

Representative Maria Horn, Senator Dennis Bradley, Senator Catherine Osten, Representative Alphonse Paolillo, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my support and advocacy with you today. My name is David Weinreb, I'm on the board of the Fair Haven Community Management Team that seeks to build community, and improve the quality of life and safety of the Fair Haven Community through the integration of neighborhood groups, businesses, and institutions working collaboratively with the Department of Police Services. The activity of the Fair Haven Community Management Team (FHCMT) includes the development, implementation, and management of sustainable community development, economic opportunity, and community-based partnerships through strategic neighborhood planning in Fair Haven.

I support SB 572 because it will tackle issues that disproportionately affect communities of color. The Community Crisis Response Team will limit unneeded contact with law enforcement by dispatching appropriately qualified professionals to respond to 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls related to welfare checks, homelessness, substance use disorder and mental health crises. This program will create a support system to deal with individuals that should not be incarcerated but provided with the opportunity to get connected to treatment, services and programs during their moments of crisis. This social service approach to law enforcement will reduce the incarceration rate and divert people from unnecessary visits to the emergency room. Police have been tasked with responding to many social issues that they are inappropriately equipped for. As the nation and state call for social justice and reimagining policing, SB 572 seeks to enhance first responses and reduce repeat emergency calls, while getting constituents the help that police officers don't have the training, resources or time to provide. Several individuals working to make this a reality have presented at our community meeting several times; they are committed to listening closely to community needs.

I also support SB 572 because it is the first step to ensuring that people returning home from incarceration have better chances to reintegrate society. People returning home from incarceration are disproportionately affected by issues related to housing, employment, substance use disorder, mental illness, and chronic medical illness. The Reentry Welcome Centers will ensure that people are connected to these services on their day of their release, they will help people apply for public benefits, and provide continuing supports while people are already in the community.

From a fiscal perspective, SB 572 is a long-term investment to generate savings due to diversion from incarceration and the emergency room. From a human perspective, SB 572 provides the opportunity to fix systemic issues that disproportionately affect communities of color.