

Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 20, 2026

Re: Memorandum of Understanding with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital

Impacted Ward: Ward 1

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the City Manager and the Chief of Police to sign and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Columbia and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital. This agreement formalizes coordination between CPD and VA Police Services to enhance law enforcement response, emergency coordination, and public safety operations at the Truman VA Hospital.

Discussion

The proposed MOU establishes a framework for cooperation between CPD and Truman VA Police Service. While both agencies already work collaboratively under concurrent jurisdiction, this agreement formalizes roles and expectations to ensure efficient and coordinated responses to incidents occurring on VA property.

Under the agreement, VA Police will continue to serve as the primary law enforcement entity on hospital grounds, responsible for maintaining order and providing initial response to incidents. CPD will provide support upon request in situations requiring additional personnel, resources, or specialized response capabilities.

Examples of CPD assistance outlined in the MOU include:

- Response to critical incidents such as armed hostage situations or major crimes extending beyond VA jurisdiction
- Support for traffic control and emergency access during major incidents
- Assistance with arrests involving violent or disorderly individuals
- Transportation of prisoners when VA staffing is limited
- Investigative support in officer-involved incidents when requested or when federal agencies are unavailable
- Collaboration on Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and coordinated responses involving veterans in crisis, as encouraged under the COMPACT Act

The agreement also reinforces ongoing interagency coordination in training, emergency response, and public safety planning.



The MOU does not alter or expand existing jurisdictional authority but serves as a formal guide for cooperation. It will remain in effect upon execution and is subject to review every three years. Either party may terminate the agreement with 180 days' written notice.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: No direct fiscal impact, any services provided under this MOU will be managed within existing departmental resources and staffing levels.

Long-Term Impact: No direct fiscal impact, any services provided under this MOU will be managed within existing departmental resources and staffing levels.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Shall council agree, staff recommends authorizing the City Manager and the Chief of Police to sign the MOU between the Columbia Police Department and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital, to formalize interagency cooperation for law enforcement and emergency response services.