

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. The City Code is amended by adding a new Section 2-1-126 to read as follows:

§ 2-1-126 COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS.

- (A) The council creates the Commission on Veterans Affairs to serve as an advisory board to the city council concerning the wellbeing of military veterans in the Austin area.
- (B) The Commission on Veteran Affairs represents the military veteran constituency of the City, and should have a balanced membership reflecting in-depth knowledge of veterans' concerns. A member should be knowledgeable in the area of veterans' affairs, affiliated with a provider of services to veterans, or a veteran of United States wars. In addition, at least two members should have actively served in the United States military, and the commission as a whole should represent a diversity of ethnicity, race and gender.
- (C) The commission shall:
 - (1) evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices designed to alleviate veterans' difficulties in meeting basic needs, obtaining housing, employment, and comprehensive mental health assistance;
 - (2) act as a central clearinghouse for information relating to the status of veterans in the Austin community;
 - (3) accumulate information concerning the needs of veterans in the Austin community, including available services and legal rights, and advocate to city council regarding these needs;
 - (4) recommend ways to:
 - (a) educate the community on the status of veterans' rights and needs, and veterans' contributions to our community; and

1 (b) stimulate an awareness among the public and private sector of
2 veterans' full potential and of the importance of veterans'
3 contributions to the development of the community; and

4 (5) identify and review the entire range of services available to veterans, and
5 recommend ways to:

6 (a) strengthen existing services for veterans and pursue new services
7 for veterans;

8 (b) promote collaboration between service providers; and

9 (c) expand resources available to veterans.
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11 **PART 2.** This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2013.

12 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

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16 _____, 2013

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17 _____
18 Lee Leffingwell
19 Mayor

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21 **APPROVED:** _____
22 Karen M. Kennard
23 City Attorney

24 **ATTEST:** _____
25 Jannette S. Goodall
26 City Clerk