



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Veterans Affairs

Recommendation Number: 20190515-E004

Approve an ordinance waiving certain fees for the Austin Veterans Art Festival (AVAFEST)

WHEREAS, the Commission on Veteran Affairs, (The Commission) is authorized by Austin City Code 2-1-126 to serve as an advisory body to council concerning the wellbeing of military veterans in the Austin area.

WHEREAS, the commission is specifically authorized to recommend programs designed to support the wellbeing of military veterans in Austin. Veteran suicide has been a particular issue affecting Veterans nationally, and Austin as a whole.

WHEREAS, the Commission received a presentation and request from the Austin Veterans Art Festival, (AVAFEST) for assistance and support in their request for the City of Austin to waive, at least, the following \$23,187 in estimated fees for the 2019 festival; and Dougherty Art Center Fee:\$7,729, Mexican American Cultural Center Fee; \$7,729, George Washington Carver Cultural Center Fee:\$7,729

WHEREAS, the Austin Veterans Art Festival is in alignment with the aim to prevent veteran suicide within Austin, by creating outlets for artistic expression that have the potential to be therapeutic within the veteran community, as well as within veteran's families, and all of Austin's communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Veteran Affairs in support of the Austin Veterans Art Festival, recommends that the City Council review, support and take action to approve all fee waivers associated with the Austin Veterans Art Festival, established a multi-year contract, and provide similar marketing and advertising resources in order to address the current needs of the Veteran community in combating veteran suicide.:

Date of Approval: 5/15/2019

Record of the Vote: Approved with 6-0 vote with Board Member Collura-Rosenburg abstaining.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter G. ...", written over a faint dotted line.