

RESOLUTION NO. 20230720-093

WHEREAS, Honor Flight is a non-profit organization with a mission to transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices at no cost to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, Honor Flight's goal is to help every veteran in America, willing and able of getting on a plane or a bus, visit their respective memorial; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately eight Honor Flight trips from Austin Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) per calendar year; and

WHEREAS, while Honor Flight includes veterans from different wars and conflicts, it is estimated that 372 World War II veterans are dying each day, and the time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out; and

WHEREAS, Honor Flight seeks sponsors for each flight as well as donations; however, as the flights depart from AUS, City staff have provided some services that can only be uniquely provided by the City, such as the water canon salute from the Austin Fire Department (AFD), public announcements, staging areas and escorts, media coordination, social media coverage as well as general event coordination the day of each flight at AUS by Department of Aviation staff; and

WHEREAS, the City is proud to be home to thousands of U.S. military veterans and seeks to recognize their hard work and tremendous sacrifice as both a tribute to their service as well as a source of inspiration for all residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Aviation, Austin Police Department (APD), AFD, and Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS) provide assistance to Honor Flight in the form of additional assistance at AUS to facilitate check-in of veterans, parking passes, APD and ATCEMS staff traveling with veterans, and a water canon salute from AFD prior to each flight; and

WHEREAS, the Veteran Services Consultant with the City's Civil Rights Office will coordinate with Honor Flight for reporting purposes under the cooperation agreement between the City and Honor Flight; and

WHEREAS, the purposes and goals of Honor Flight constitute a municipal and public purpose by, among other things, providing outreach, education, and recognition not only of the service and sacrifice of U.S. military veterans and their families residing in the City but also the important role our U.S. military has played throughout our nation's history in protecting and preserving freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the City to continue to help facilitate Honor Flight trips from AUS in order to pay tribute to veterans travelling through our facility; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes the City's use of staff time, equipment and the need to waive permit fees and parking fees for Honor Flight trips out of AUS as a necessary municipal and public purpose for the reasons stated above, and wish to document the continuing relationship as a City co-sponsored event; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

Any contributions of staff time or City resources this past fiscal year are approved and ratified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

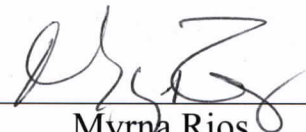
Resolution No. 021003-40 is amended to add Honor Flight trips as a City co-sponsored event starting in fiscal year 2023-2024 and the City Manager is directed to include Honor Flight in the list of City co-sponsored events for which fees are waived annually in the ordinance adopted with the budget starting in fiscal year 2023-2024 to waive any permit and parking fees at AUS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute a co-sponsorship agreement with Honor Flight documenting the current practices and contributions from the City including terms consistent with this Resolution and the City Auditor's report regarding Honor Flight, as well as any future amendments as needed.

ADOPTED: July 20, 2023

ATTEST:


Myrna Rios
City Clerk