



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Recommendation Number: 20240320-004: RECOMMENDED STUDY TO UNDERSTAND
REAL-WORLD NEEDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY-BASED VETERANS

WHEREAS, Texas has the largest veteran population in the United States and Travis County has a veteran population of 56,000+/-; and

WHEREAS, veterans are not a monolith and possess a diverse sets of needs, senses of identity, and challenges; and

WHEREAS, there remains a great opportunity to better understand the diversity of current needs and estimate future needs for Travis County-based veterans so to design programs, policies, and budgets that are informed by this real-world understanding of evolving needs of this population; and

WHEREAS, Travis-county does not currently possess a sufficiently deep understanding of its veterans and thus lacks an ability to make data-driven decisions for and with this dynamic and cherished population; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Veterans Affairs encourages the Austin City Council to commission a small study (to include surveys and qualitative research) to better understand the nuanced needs, perceptions, challenges, and barriers facing Travis County-based veterans today, across all demographics.

Date of Approval: March 20, 2024

Record of the vote: 8-0

For: Christopher Wilson, Mark Balch, William Dahlstrom, Armando Gonzales, Curtis Wyman, Amber Schleuning, Patrick Bissett, Michael Mcinerney

Not Present: Kevin Lenau, Philip Reichert, Maria Brown-Spence

Attest: _____

Christopher 'Cam' Wilson – Chair, Commission on Veteran Affairs