

**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

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

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

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

(b) promote collaboration between service providers; and

(c) expand resources available to veterans.

**PART 2.** This ordinance takes effect on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2013      §  
   §  
   § \_\_\_\_\_  
   Lee Leffingwell  
   Mayor

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                         Karen M. Kennard  
                         City Attorney

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                         Jannette S. Goodall  
                         City Clerk