

ORDINANCE NO. 20130214-043

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 February 25, 2013.

PASSED AND APPROVED:

February 14, 2013 §
 § Lee Leffingwell
 § Lee Leffingwell
 Mayor

APPROVED: Karen M. Kennard **ATTEST:** Jannette S. Goodall
Karen M. Kennard Jannette S. Goodall
City Attorney City Clerk