RESOLUTION NO. 20170622-035

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has identified the homelessness of military veterans in the city as a priority issue, and the city council created the Veterans Affairs Commission in 2013 to recommend solutions alleviating veterans' difficulties in obtaining housing, employment, education, training, mental health assistance, women and family counseling, and counseling for Veterans Affairs benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Commission passed Commission Recommendation Number 20150318-B004 and Budget Resolution Recommendation Number 2017050419-4.d with several findings supporting a recommendation to allocate funds for the purchase and lease of office space for the formation and implementation of a Veterans Resource Center.

WHEREAS, the Commission found that homelessness of military veterans is complicated by the lack of affordable housing in the city and public transportation within close proximity to employers, infrastructure, and providers of support services for military veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also found that employment, education, training, mental health assistance, healthcare, and various counseling services for military veterans are decentralized and scattered throughout the city; making access to vital and necessary services difficult for veterans with disabilities and limited economic, mobility, and transportation resources; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognized Veterans Non-Profit Corporations, Veterans Service Organizations, and Veterans Court Services play a vital role in the lives of veterans and are capable of providing services in one location with the Texas Veterans Commission and other important support and benefit organizations for veterans (referred to as "Veterans service providers"); and

WHEREAS, the Commission therefore advised the City Council to allocate funds to establish a Veterans Resource Center that is located central to transportation, has a Veteran Plaza and department staff, and will serve as a clearinghouse in which all the Veterans service providers will have offices with representatives to meet and provide their services to military veterans and their families in a "One Stop Shop"; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Council directs the City Manager to complete and prepare to present a Business Plan to City Council within six months of the effective date of this Resolution. The City Manager shall address in the Business Plan the needs, costs, potential funding, and work steps associated with establishing the Veterans Resource Center. As a component of the Business Plan, the City Manager shall conduct a needs assessment for veterans' services (Assessment) that demonstrates what service gaps exist and provide recommendations on how to approach and narrow such gaps. The Assessment shall also propose metrics for measuring success and demonstrate how a Veterans Resource Center would help meet those goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In completing the Business Plan, the City Manager will consider and address, but not be limited to the following work steps recommended by the Veterans Affairs Commission:

1. Locate an office building within the City's property inventory, or an available lease facility, with space large enough to accommodate the director and staff of the City of Austin's Veterans Program office and the satellite informational resource offices of Veterans service providers;

2. Ensure the office space is at least 5,500 square feet and the City has the budget to remodel a network floorplan, furnish and integrate a network database to follow the veterans from beginning to end of the network of services.

3. Invite Veterans service providers to have their representatives available at this location and provide their contact, application, and other information regarding their services. The Veterans service providers will include but not be limited to: proven local Veterans Non-Profit Corporations and state and federal Veterans service providers, such as the Texas Veterans Commission, Texas Workforce Commission, and the Veterans Administration.

4. The Veterans Resource Center staff will create an interactive website that links all Veterans services providers in the city and will market and advocate for the inclusion of all Veterans Non-profit Corporations and Veterans Service Organizations in the city.

5. Take additional steps deemed necessary or desirable in establishing the Veterans Resource Center, including assessing the possibility of federal, state, county, and private funding sources.

ADOPTED: June 22, 2017 **ATTEST:** Jannette S. Goodall

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk