

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-18**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4
5 Mayor Javier Gonzales

6 Councilor Patti Bushee

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10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **ESTABLISHING A CITY OF SANTA FE VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD THAT WILL**
12 **ADDRESS MATTERS AFFECTING VETERANS, PROPOSE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS**
13 **THE NEEDS OF LOCAL VETERANS AND ADVISE THE GOVERNING BODY ON**
14 **STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS ON SUCH MATTERS.**

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe recognizes and appreciates the service of brave men and
17 woman in our community who have served our great Country; and

18 **WHEREAS**, our older veterans are faced with many of the problems and issues associated
19 with age; and

20 **WHEREAS**, our younger veterans are faced with problems and issues of unemployment and
21 underemployment; and

22 **WHEREAS**, there are varying levels of service made available to veterans at the federal, state
23 and local level, as well as services made available through local non-profits; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is to fulfill
25 President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and

1 his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services is to provide
3 assistance to veterans, their widows, and their children in establishing the privileges which they are
4 legally entitled, such as health care, educational benefits and the right to a proper burial; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body has shown support for local veterans in our community
6 through the adoption of various pieces of legislation which include, but are not limited to the following:

- 7 • Designating funds received from the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services,
8 pursuant to state law, solely for veteran programs;
- 9 • Implementing a City of Santa Fe Veterans' Hiring Initiative;
- 10 • Supporting the development of a veterans art therapy program in Santa Fe;
- 11 • Urging the City's Congressional Delegation to support efforts to build, preserve,
12 rehabilitate and operate rental housing that is affordable for low income veterans and
13 their families;
- 14 • Directing staff to explore the resources and programs provided by the federal government
15 that would help end veteran homelessness in our community by the end of 2015; and

16 **WHEREAS**, recently, the New Mexico Veterans Administration opened the Santa Fe
17 Community Based Outpatient Clinic which is designed to deliver primary care services to eligible
18 Veterans; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Vet Center provides a broad range of counseling, outreach, and
20 referral services to combat Veterans and their families; and

21 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to continue to assist local veterans in Santa Fe, therefore, the
22 Governing Body desires to establish a Veterans' Advisory Board that would address matters affecting
23 veterans, propose solutions to alleviate or address the needs of local veterans and recognize the
24 contributions local veterans have made.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**

1 CITY OF SANTA FE that the Governing Body hereby salutes the brave service of local men and
2 women in our community who have served our great Country.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body hereby establishes a board to
4 address matters affecting local veterans.

5 **Section 1. NAME:** The board shall be called the Veterans' Advisory Board ("Board").

6 **Section 2. PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Board is to advise the Governing Body on
7 strategies and solutions to address the needs of local veterans which include, but are not limited to
8 medical needs, housing, employment and homelessness.

9 **Section 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

10 A. Make recommendations for the use of funds received from the New Mexico
11 Department of Veterans' Services, in accordance with state law and the New Mexico Veterans'
12 National Cemetery Fund, for veteran programs, pursuant to City of Santa Fe Resolution No. 2013-2.

13 B. Make recommendations related to transition services for soon to be discharged
14 veterans who would meet with Workforce Development to assess if the person holds or because of
15 military experience could earn licensure that would be needed in a civilian job, job seeking skills,
16 registration with Workforce Development.

17 C. Compile and maintain a listing of physical and behavioral health services available
18 for veterans.

19 D. Compile and maintain a "how-to" for veterans to receive:

20 (1) Down-payment assistance for home ownership; or

21 (2) Rental assistance for first time renters; or

22 (3) Shelter plus care rental for those needing additional services to maintain
23 housing.

24 E. Review and make recommendations how to provide assistance to veterans for items
25 that cannot be paid for with federal funds, i.e., bus passes, Railrunner passes to go to the Albuquerque

1 VA Hospital and Veteran’s Integration Center, a resource directory and access to a computer with fax
2 and printer for veterans.

3 F. Assist local nonprofits who work with individuals to access Social Security benefits;
4 investigate SOAR, a program to streamline application process to access Social Security benefits.

5 G. Work with local nonprofits to bring in more life skills and behavioral health capacity
6 services.

7 H. Work with State of NM Workforce Development to promote existing services.

8 I. Work with the Santa Fe Resource Opportunity Center to make outreach efforts to
9 veterans who are experiencing homelessness.

10 J. Recognize and honor the accomplishments of local veterans.

11 **Section 4. MEMBERSHIP; OFFICERS; TERM:**

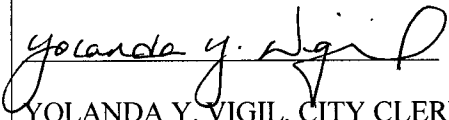
12 A. *Membership.* The City shall solicit the community for interested persons to serve on
13 the Board. The Board shall consist of nine members who shall be appointed by the Mayor and
14 approved by the Governing Body. Appointees of the Board shall be residents of the Santa Fe County.
15 At all times, a minimum of three members of the Board shall be veterans or immediate family
16 members of veterans. To the greatest extent possible, the Board shall include representation from:

- 17 • The business community
- 18 • A mental health provider
- 19 • A homeless service provider
- 20 • A local housing services provider
- 21 • A financial services provider
- 22 • A medical services provider
- 23 • An outdoor oriented non-profit
- 24 • Arts oriented non-profit
- 25 • Animal oriented non-profit

1 ATTEST:

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4 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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8 KELLEY A. BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY

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M/Legislation/Resolutions 2015/2015-18 Veterans Advisory Board