

## **VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD**

**CREATING AUTHORITY:** Adopted on February 11, 2015 by Resolution 2015-18

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

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. Make recommendations for the use of funds received from the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, in accordance with state law and the New Mexico Veterans' National Cemetery Fund, for veteran programs, pursuant to City of Santa Fe Resolution No. 2013-2.
- B. Make recommendations related to transition services for soon to be discharged veterans who would meet with Workforce Development to assess if the person holds or because of military experience could earn licensure that would be needed in a civilian job, job seeking skills, registration with Workforce Development.
- C. Compile and maintain a listing of physical and behavioral health services available for veterans.
- D. Compile and maintain a "how-to" for veterans to receive:
  - (1) Down-payment assistance for home ownership; or
  - (2) Rental assistance for first time renters; or
  - (3) Shelter plus care rental for those needing additional services to maintain housing.
- E. Review and make recommendations how to provide assistance to veterans for items that cannot be paid for with federal funds, i.e., bus passes, Railrunner passes to go to the Albuquerque VA Hospital and Veteran's Integration Center, a resource directory and access to a computer with fax and printer for veterans.
- F. Assist local nonprofits who work with individuals to access Social Security benefits; investigate SOAR, a program to streamline application process to access Social Security benefits.
- G. Work with local nonprofits to bring in more life skills and behavioral health capacity services.
- H. Work with State of NM Workforce Development to promote existing services.
- I. Work with the Santa Fe Resource Opportunity Center to make outreach efforts to

veterans who are experiencing homelessness.

J. Recognize and honor the accomplishments of local veterans.

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

- The business community
- A mental health provider
- A homeless service provider
- A local housing service provider
- A financial services provider
- A medical services provider
- An outdoor oriented non-profit
- Arts oriented non-profit
- Animal oriented non-profit
- Or other relative programs.

**TERMS:** Beginning with the adoption of this resolution, four of the members shall be appointed for on year terms and five shall be appointed for two year terms. Subsequent terms shall be for two years to maintain staggering of terms. There is no limitation to reappointment. The members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governing Body and may be removed at any time with or without cause.

**VACANCIES:** Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments and shall be for the remainder of the term. Vacancies shall be filled as to maintain the balance of interest group representation.

**MEETINGS:** A quorum shall be at least five members. The Board shall also conduct all meetings in accordance with adopted City policies and procedures and shall use *Robert's Rules of Order* in conducting its meetings. The Board shall meet in a minimum of one time per month, as necessary.

**STAFF LIAISON:** Terrie Rodriguez, Community Services Division Director  
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