**PROPOSAL FOR AN ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING BY THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION (VAC)**

Purpose: Request’s City Council approval for a biennial public hearing by the City’s Veterans Affairs Commission.

Discussion

The VAC would like to host a biennial public hearing on veteran issues starting in 2022. We propose that this hearing be held in January or February of each year. However, because of the lead time (45-60 days) to plan the event, in 2022, the hearing would be postponed to March or April.

The purpose of the hearing is to hearing community concerns about veteran issues, issues impacting active duty, Guardsmen and Reservists. Speakers would be invited from Veteran Service Organizations, veteran service providers and individual veterans. Some of the speakers may include: the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, student veteran groups, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, State Board of Veterans Affairs, county veteran service officers, representatives from active duty, National Guard and Reserve units.

Issues raised during the hearing would be the basis for recommendations to the City Council regarding ways to improve services to the targeted audience and ways to measure those services.

We anticipate the hearing would take 2-3 hours and could be held in City Hall or in a community venue.

The VAC will need support from city staff in terms of marketing the event, providing proper public notice, extending invitations to speakers, providing an American Sign Language interpreter and a stenographer to record the hearing and prepare a transcript. Additionally, if the event is not held in City Hall, there may be some logistics support required.

Recommendation

Approve the proposal.

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