



DIANNE JACOB
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: October 22, 2013

09

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: EXTENDING OUR REACH TO VETERANS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

San Diego County is home to more than 244,000 veterans, which is the second largest veteran population in the state of California. With so many veterans living in San Diego County, the Veterans Services Office was established to serve veterans by assisting them in obtaining their local, state, and federal benefits afforded to them by law. The County of San Diego currently offers nine locations where County Veterans Services Officers (CVSOs) can meet with veterans and provide services. With San Diego County's veteran population expected to increase, the need for additional locations, expanded hours, and additional volunteer CVSOs will also increase. Placing CVSOs in our County Libraries would add an additional 34 potential locations where veterans can receive the services they need.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to explore the feasibility of utilizing County Libraries for expanded services to our veteran population and report back within 120 days. With veterans spread out all across San Diego County, the potential use of County Libraries would provide CVSOs the space and locations they need to meet with veterans.

Recommendation(s)

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN DIANNE JACOB

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to explore the feasibility of utilizing County Libraries for expanded services to our veteran population and report back within 120 days.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

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Background

San Diego County is currently home to more than 244,000 veterans, which is the second largest veteran population in the state of California. With so many veterans living in San Diego County, the Veterans Services Office was established to serve veterans by assisting them in obtaining their local, state, and federal benefits afforded to them by law.

The Veterans Services Office currently offers a full range of services that includes comprehensive benefits counseling, claims preparation and submission, claims follow-up, appeals, and advocacy with other veteran services organizations across the nation. These services are currently offered at most of the nine different locations across San Diego County, including the County Operations Center, VA Medical Center, and the VA Regional Office.

San Diego County CVSOs currently staff these nine different facilities anywhere from one day a week to full-time. Most of these officers are volunteer. While the Veterans Services Office has done an exceptional job, there will always be a demand for increased volunteer CVSOs, locations, and expanded hours. With seven military installations in San Diego County, and many veterans choosing to stay where they are ultimately discharged, San Diego County will become the most populous location for veterans in the not so distant future.

One of the biggest challenges we currently face is that CVSOs have to find space on their own to meet with veterans. Putting San Diego County CVSOs in County Libraries would provide the Veterans Services Office with a base of 34 different locations to choose from in order to offer services to veterans. This recommendation would benefit veterans all across San Diego County, including those living in rural areas like Campo, Julian, and Borrego Springs.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to explore the feasibility of utilizing County Libraries for expanded services to our veteran population. With the veteran population in San Diego County on the rise, it is important we continue to find ways to serve our veterans with the resources we currently have available. I urge your support.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Matthew Parr

Name
619-531-5522

Phone
Matthew.parr@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail

Name

Phone

E-mail