



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS NEW CANCER PRESUMPTIONS ANNOUNCED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

WHEREAS: On January 8th, 2025, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that they have expanded several types of cancers to be presumptive for service-connection. This includes acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis, urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers; *and*

WHEREAS: The expansion will lower the burden of proof for veterans to receive medical care and assume the conditions are service-related, allowing treatment at no-cost; *and*

WHEREAS: Veterans who are eligible for the presumptions include Gulf War Veterans who served in Somalia or the Southwest theater of the Gulf War on or after August 2nd, 1990, and Post 9/11 Veterans, who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or Uzbekistan and the airspace above these locations on or after September 11th, 2001; *and*

WHEREAS: According to the VA, the presumptive status for urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers came into effect on January 2nd, 2025, and the presumptions for acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, and myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis have kicked in on January 10th, 2025; *and*

WHEREAS: This important announcement follows the signing of the PACT Act in 2022, which expanded benefits to over 3.5 million U.S. service members and veterans who were exposed to Burn Pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances while serving overseas. Prior to the PACT Act's passage, many veterans lacked the proper documented evidence to prove these toxic exposures to receive treatment; *and*

WHEREAS: When we send our veterans in harm's way, we have a moral obligation to care for them when they return. We encourage our veterans with the cancers previously mentioned to seek care through the VA; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the significance of these new cancer presumptions from the Department of Veterans Affairs for service-connection. Representatives from the City of Boston Office of Veteran Services, the Boston VA Medical Center, and any other relevant stakeholders are welcome to attend.