



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE GOALS AND PRIORITIES OF CITY OF BOSTON'S OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has a substantial and diverse veterans population, with more than 13,000 veterans residing in Boston, according to the most recent U.S. Census data; *and*

WHEREAS: Veterans and military families have proudly served our country and earned their benefits from our city, state, and federal governments; *and*

WHEREAS: Our veterans community is diverse, and with varied needs. It is therefore important to ensure that there are services and resources catered to the unique needs of different groups, such as returning veterans, women veterans, LGBTQ+ veterans, and homeless veterans, and more; *and*

WHEREAS: We need to ensure that our VAs have the appropriate counseling services for returning veterans, gender specific healthcare for our women veterans, respectful healthcare providers for our LGBTQ+ veterans, housing services for our homeless veterans, and other catered services; *and*

WHEREAS: Boston has one of the best departments in the country that support our veterans and military families. The City of Boston's Office of Veterans Services work closely with our veterans and military families to connect them to resources and services that they have earned, and they also work closely with our state and federal partners to empower and support our veterans and military families; *and*

WHEREAS: Aside from service referrals, the Office of Veterans Services also know firsthand the gaps in service that need to be addressed, ways to better serve our veterans in need, and areas of policy that should be amended; *and*

WHEREAS: In order to provide the appropriate services to veterans with different needs, we need to ensure that our Office of Veterans Services have the resources they need to perform their work in supporting our veterans, and to carry out their goals and priorities; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss resources available to veterans and military families through Boston's Veteran Services, as well as their goals and priorities for this year and beyond. Representatives from the City of Boston's Veterans Services and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.