

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN, ARROYO, BAKER, BOK,
COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LARA,
LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, WORRELL AND BREADON



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO INFORM VETERANS ABOUT THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THEM THROUGH THE PACT ACT

WHEREAS: On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed the PACT Act, also known as the "*Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins*" Act. This legislation addresses and expands the health care needs of U.S. service members who were exposed to Burn Pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances while serving on duty overseas; *and*

WHEREAS: Recently, I attended the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 2023 Mid-Winter Conference, where I met with Federal Officials and DAV members and discussed the PACT Act. Many veterans who served near burn pits were exposed to airborne toxins from burned waste products such as plastics, metal, rubber, and chemical solvents, resulting in diseases such as sinusitis, rhinitis and asthma. The DAV estimates that over 3.5 million veterans have been exposed to burn pits during operations in the Middle East; *and*

WHEREAS: Prior to the passage of this bill, many veterans lacked the proper documented evidence to prove these toxic exposures to receive treatment. Now that it is law, we must ensure veterans know about these new toxic exposure benefits and to start filing a claim. These are necessary and overdue veteran disability and health care benefits that they earned and rightfully deserve; *and*

WHEREAS: Applying to VA benefits is a free and straightforward process, and applying for the PACT Act benefits before August 10, 2023 will ensure benefits are backdated to August, 10, 2022; *and*

WHEREAS: Those seeking claims should contact their local Veterans' Services Officer. Those who are not enrolled in VA Healthcare should visit their local VA to enroll, and veterans can also contact the City of Boston's Office of Veterans Services, visit the Jamaica Plain VA Medical Center, or the West Roxbury VA Medical Center; *and*

WHEREAS: We must recognize the challenges our veterans face when returning home and provide them with the necessary health care, support, and resources. Their services and contributions are indispensable to our nation and we have a duty to protect and care for them; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council informs our veterans about these available resources through the PACT Act and to urge those who have been exposed to burn pits while on duty to file for these exposure benefits.

Filed on: March 15, 2023