

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor Stone

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** March 20, 2013

**SUBJECT:** VETERAN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION ENCOMPASSING RIVERSIDE COUNTY (V.A.L.E.R.)

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

That the Board of Supervisors direct the creation and implementation of VALER by establishing a sub-committee of the Board of Supervisors to formulate a *"No Veteran Left Behind"* strategy and program for Riverside County.

**BACKGROUND:**

In Riverside County it is estimated that 6,203 out of 2.3 million residents are homeless, and **890** of those homeless are Veterans.

Many of these veterans have completed high school and most have received an honorable discharge. A significant number of them have developed alcohol and/or drug problems. These heroes put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms and liberties that we all enjoy. This neglect of our military veterans, by the federal government, can no longer be condoned and the Board of Supervisors should provide assistance to correct this problem.

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JEFF STONE  
Supervisor, Third District

It is recommended that the Chairman select a sub-committee of the Board to act on behalf of the Board and in concert with the executive office to meet with the following department heads and agency representatives:

- a. Mental Health – Jerry Wengerd
- b. Department of Public Social Services – Susan Loew
- c. Public Health Agency – Susan Harrington
- d. Regional Medical Center - Doug Bagley
- e. Veterans Services – William Earle
- f. Riverside Transit Agency – Larry Rubio
- g. Economic Development Agency - Robert Field
- h. Workforce Development – Felicia Flournoy
- i. VA Hospital representative
- j. Congressional delegation representative
- k. US Senate representatives
- l. March Air Reserve Base
- m. Housing Authority
- n. Veteran's organizations/interest groups that desire to be of help

The goal of this subcommittee is to formulate a strategy that will ensure that every veteran who wishes to help themselves will receive the appropriate services to seek attention for both medical and mental health issues, workforce development training and job placement assistance, and affordable housing priority to end the travesty of being a homeless veteran in Riverside County within one year.

Known statistics:

1. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs estimates that between 130,000 - 200,000 veterans are homeless on any given night.
2. 40% of homeless men are veterans although veterans compose 30% of the male population in the United States.
3. 45% suffer from mental illness
4. Mostly males although 4% of homeless veterans are women.
5. 23% of homeless population are veterans
  - a. 47% Vietnam Era
  - b. 17% post-Vietnam
  - c. 15% pre-Vietnam
  - d. 67% served three or more years
  - e. 33% stationed in war zone
  - f. 25% have used VA Homeless Services
  - g. 85% completed high school/GED, compared to 56% of non-veteran
  - h. 89% received Honorable Discharge
  - i. 79% reside in central cities
  - j. 16% reside in suburban areas
  - k. 5% reside in rural areas
  - l. 76% experience alcohol, drug, or mental health problems
  - m. 46% age 45 or older compared to 20% non-veterans.\*

\*[www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)