

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



ITEM
3.57
(ID # 5986)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, December 12, 2017


FROM : SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ AND SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON :


SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ AND SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON:
Veterans Improvement Program of Riverside County.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve the following policies and programs to assist veterans and their families:

1. Directs the County Executive Officer & Deputy County Executive Officer- Legislative Affairs to work with the State Legislature, the Office of the Governor, California Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and California Veterans Service Officers, to request full funding for Veterans Service Officers in accordance with the State Veterans Code and adds this item to the state legislative platform
2. Directs the CEO & Deputy CEO- Legislative Affairs to work with federal legislators and county advocates in Washington, D.C. to reinstate our State & County Veterans Service Officers' electronic access to veteran military service records and adds this item to the federal legislative platform
3. Directs the CEO & Assistant CEO- Human Resources to review the County Veteran Employment Preference Program and bring forward an updated policy to the Board approval for approval within the first quarter of 2018
4. Directs the CEO & Assistant CEO- Human Resources to explore the development of a countywide Veteran Internship Program "VIP" and report to the Board within the first quarter of 2018 regarding implementation
5. Directs the CEO & Assistant CEO- Human Resources to explore a possible study on the State of Riverside County Veterans with Community Transitional Research Institute (CTRI) covering aspects such as veterans' health, housing, homelessness, education, vocational training, mental health and employment needs

ACTION: Policy

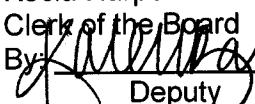

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Supervisor 12/7/2017


Supervisor Chuck Washington 12/7/2017

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Perez and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: Washington
Date: December 12, 2017
xc: Supvr. Perez, Supvr. Washington, EO, HR

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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

BACKGROUND:

Riverside County is the proud home of 132,228 veterans, according to the latest federal and state data. Of those veterans: 21,829 reside in the First District, 19,041 in District 2, 34,951 in District 3, 29,522 in District 4 and 26,885 in District 5. Riverside County has the third highest veteran population in the state and is the host of two major military installations, various National Guard and federal & state reserve facilities and installations.

Over the past three years, our County Veterans Service Officers generated \$99 million in new benefit payments for Disabled Veterans, or an average of \$33 million annually, ranking this county second in utilization of benefits in the state.

Veterans have earned their benefits and our respect and gratitude. To expand services to veterans and their families, we propose the following policies and programs:

We must ask our state to increase funding for the Veterans Service Officers program. This funding is shared among California's 58 counties. Current funding rests at \$5.6 million, with full funding resting close to \$ 11 million annually. Following the Great recession funding dropped below \$ 3 million annually.

We can process Veterans claims for Disability or other records more rapidly by restoring electronic access to federal and state military records. Records access was eliminated following a hacking/electronic security breach. We seek to work with the U.S. Veterans Administration to restore this access.

The county has a longstanding Veteran Employment Preference Program, a hiring point preference program for veterans seeking employment with the County of Riverside. Revitalizing this program will benefit veterans, as well as the county, which can utilize the skills and abilities of our military veterans. A new program eliminates the seldom used Points Based Preference Program and replaces it with a new program that facilitates Veterans moving into the interview and county selection process. It is believed a new program would significantly increase hiring interviews across the county.

Establishing the Veterans Internship Program (VIP) in Riverside County will help veterans develop experience that will aid in employment as well as academic endeavors. Human Resources should could funding, for paid internships, from existing programs that may be available through allied agencies such as the Western Riverside Council of Governments.

Finally, to enhance our understanding of the needs of our veterans, a comprehensive but rapidly completed study of our resident veterans is needed. Working with CTRI and taking advantage of their researchers and world-renowned staff is one way to produce a comprehensive study that is of great benefit to our county and veterans in forecasting their current and future needs across a wide range of areas.

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

We believe the implantation of the above programs, pursuit of full state funding, and creating a Veterans Internship Program, will be of great benefit to our Honorably Discharged Veterans and our county team.

Fiscal Information:

Should the state restore and fully fund Veterans Service Officers programs at the \$11 million mark, the county should see an increase in funding to the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services which will likely result in the addition of Veterans Services Officers without impacting the General Fund. Should the Assistant CEO- Human Resources and CTRI agree upon a scope of work and undertaking of a study the cost would not exceed \$ 25,000.00 with funding availability to be identified at that time.