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Offered by Councilors Felix G. Arroyo and Salvatore LaMattina

CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TEN

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE BENEFITS AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO ARMED SERVICES VETERANS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Our veterans have made tremendous sacrifices to ensure we enjoy the freedoms we do in our country; and

WHEREAS, Our veterans deserve to be treated with high respect and esteem at all points as a result of their sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, The City of Boston's Veteran Services Department provides financial, medical and housing assistance to these veterans; and

WHEREAS, The City of Boston's Veteran Services Department has 700 active cases, and sees between 40-50 veterans per day seeking assistance; and

WHEREAS, A significant problem facing our veterans is homelessness where, at present, up to 25% of all homeless are veterans and 1 in every 10 homeless veterans under the age of 45 is female; and

WHEREAS, Research conducted on veterans indicates that 25% - 30% of Afghanistan and Iraq War Veterans have reported symptoms of a mental disorder or cognitive impairment; and

WHEREAS, For all veterans, 7.1% have met criteria for having a substance abuse disorder within the past twelve months; and

WHEREAS, No veteran should ever be without housing, medical and financial assistance, and we should be doing all we can to make sure our veterans are treated with the respect and dignity that they have earned. *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the city of Boston's services provided to veterans, and how the City can do all it can to make sure our veterans are treated with the dignity and respect they have earned. Representatives from the City of Boston's Veteran Services Department, veterans organizations, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: Friday, May 28, 2010

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