



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST (short form)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 3/21/13
Agenda Item #: R.3
Est. Start Time: 9:55 am
Date Submitted: 3/13/13

Agenda Title: **Resolution Supporting and Recognizing Veterans and Their Families through Involvement in the Joining Community Forces Community Covenant Program**

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title.

Requested Meeting Date:	<u>March 21, 2013</u>	Amount of Time Needed:	<u>15 minutes</u>
Department:	<u>Non-departmental</u>	Division:	<u>District 4</u>
Contact(s):	<u>Sean Files</u>		
Phone:	<u>503.988.5213</u>	Ext.	<u>22738</u>
I/O Address:	<u>503/600</u>		
Presenter(s):	<u>Elan Lambert, Oregon National Guard</u>		

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Support for Multnomah County's involvement in developing a Community Covenant through Joining Community Forces.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue.

Joining Community Forces Community Covenant program is a Department of Defense initiative, and in the five years since it launched there have been over 500 covenants signed across the country. In Oregon, Yamhill County recently started work on one and at least two other counties are expected to begin soon.

Through the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, we expect to have more troops returning to this community with depleted resources available for transition assistance. County services act as a safety net for those most in need in our community, and many of these veterans and their families may seek help from the county if they do not get support upon their return.

The opportunity of the Community Covenant is to bring together all of the partners involved in assisting veterans, raise awareness about this commitment to those who have served, and establish a plan for supporting these veterans as soon as they return. The committee membership is broad because this covenant highlights the entire community's role in supporting veterans and their families.

Multnomah County already has a coordinating role with the Veterans Task Force that Commissioner

McKeel chairs and will facilitate the process through this committee. Following the board's action on this resolution, Elan Lambert from the Oregon National Guard will guide the steering committee's work to develop the community covenant.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

None. This project will leverage existing resources to improve veteran services at no additional cost to the county.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

None.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The Community Covenant Steering Committee will be based in the Multnomah County Veterans Task Force, which includes representatives from multiple county departments (HR, MCSO, DCJ, ADS, Nondepartmental), Nonprofit community partners (Transition Projects, Central City Concern, Ride Connection, Metropolitan Public Defenders, Oregon Military Support Network), and state and federal partners (VA, Oregon National Guard, Governor's Office, Senator Wyden's Office, Oregon Dept of Veteran Affairs). Additional representatives invited to participate in developing the covenant will include faith community leaders, business leaders, education organizations, and community groups for veterans, such as American Legion or VFW.

We expect outreach to begin following board action on this resolution, with the first Steering Committee meeting this Spring.

Required Signature

**Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:**

Diane McKeel

Date: 3/14/2013