

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 07-107

Supporting Veteran Reintegration Efforts and Co-Hosting a Summit Meeting in
Coordination with the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Program

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. 18,204 Oregonians have served in Iraq or Afghanistan since the beginning of hostilities.
- b. Over 5,000 of those troops are from the Oregon National Guard (ONG) and many others are from various service reserves.
- c. All Veterans deserve our respect and appreciation for their service to our community and country.
- d. While the federal government has primary responsibility for the welfare of our nation's Veterans, all communities should stand prepared to welcome their Veterans home and offer support whenever necessary or appropriate.
- e. All combat Veterans may face challenges upon returning home; the challenges facing citizen soldiers are particularly acute given the nature of their deployments.
- f. An estimated ten percent of those who served in Iraq or Afghanistan may experience some degree of undiagnosed traumatic brain injury and the incidence of post traumatic stress disorder or other mental health issues range from 20-50% of all combat Veterans.
- g. One of the biggest challenges faced by many younger Veterans returning to our community is the need for a living wage job.
- h. Members of the ONG and other reserve unit Veterans represent an excellent pool of well-trained and proven job candidates.
- i. The ONG's Veterans Reintegration Program is a national model and the only state program with a dedicated employment program (Career Transition Assistance Program).

- j. The ONG's Veterans Reintegration Program 24-hotline receives approximately 75 assistance calls per week: 50% for mental health issues; 40% for employment; and 10% for emergency assistance or housing.
- k. Efforts are underway to create a Veterans Resource Center at Portland State University. This project (The Returning Veterans Resource Project NW) is just one example of many new or existing community-based efforts supporting Veterans.
- l. As the Iraq war comes to an end and our troops come home, local service providers anticipate that more and more Veterans and their families will be reaching out to them for help.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

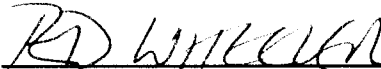
- 1. The Board of Commissioners extends its gratitude to all Veterans with special appreciation for those who are returning to our community after serving in Afghanistan or Iraq.
- 2. The Board supports the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Program effort to establish a Veterans resource center at Portland State University.
- 3. The County Chair is appointed the County's contact for military and community groups supporting Veterans within our community.
- 4. Multnomah County will advocate at both the Federal and State levels of government for full funding of Veteran services.
- 5. The County will support Veteran re-integration efforts by:
 - a. participating in welcome home ceremonies and extending appreciation from the County to all Veterans who have served our community;
 - b. working with the Veteran Reintegration Program and its Career Transition Assistance Program to foster a work environment that is supportive and conducive to the successful reintegration of those Veterans returning to the County's workforce;
 - c. developing outreach and recruitment tools to employ Veterans; and
 - d. facilitating local businesses and community-based organizations in efforts to welcome and support Veterans returning to our community.

6. Multnomah County will co-host a summit meeting, in coordination with the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Program, with all parties in the Portland metropolitan area interested in Veteran care and support.

ADOPTED this 7th day of June, 2007.




BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Jeff Cogen, Commissioner, District 2