

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Ordinance No. O2012-0013

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Greenspan, Germana, Connally, Rogers, Conwell, Schron, Simon, Gallagher, Miller, Brady and Jones	An Ordinance establishing a Veterans Services Fund to provide workforce development and other assistance to veterans residing in Cuyahoga County and devoting all unspent monies budgeted each previous fiscal year for the Veterans Services Commission in Cuyahoga County to such a fund.
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WHEREAS, the Veterans Service Commission of Cuyahoga County has existed since 1886, initially established to assist honorably discharged veterans and their families with unexpected hardships; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5901 of the Ohio Revised Code established a veterans service commission in each Ohio county, determining that the duties of every county veterans service commission will include “establishing policies and procedures for the administration of assistance” to veterans and “establishing programs of outreach and coordination with other agencies to enhance available services to veterans within the county;” and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Service Commission of Cuyahoga County is required to annually determine the amount it needs to provide assistance to veterans and must prepare and submit a budget to the Cuyahoga County Council, such budget to be within a statutorily prescribed formula; and

WHEREAS, the Council may review the proposed budget, but is required to appropriate the requested amount so long as the proposed budget is within the statutorily prescribed formula; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Service Commission of Cuyahoga County has not traditionally spent all of its annual appropriation, returning an average of \$1.2M per fiscal year to the General Fund of Cuyahoga County for fiscal years 2008 through 2011;” and

WHEREAS, all such returned funds have been used for other General Fund purposes; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County Council intends that funds appropriated to the Veterans Service Commission shall be used to benefit veterans of the county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. Veterans Services Fund Established

There is hereby created a Veterans Services Fund, which shall be for the purpose of providing services to or funding programs for veterans residing in Cuyahoga County.

The Fiscal Officer is hereby directed to immediately establish a separate fund for the purpose of collecting and expending unspent monies budgeted for the Veterans Service Commission in Cuyahoga County and returned to the County's general fund each fiscal year. All such monies shall be automatically directed and deposited into the Fund and shall only be used for the purposes authorized herein.

SECTION 2. Funding Sources

The Veterans Services Fund shall be funded from any funds budgeted for the Veterans Service Commission in Cuyahoga County and returned to the County General Fund each fiscal year. Funds may also be directed to the Veterans Services Fund by Council during the regular budget process.

SECTION 3. Fund Uses

Cuyahoga County Council shall determine the services and programs that shall be provided or funded from the Veterans Services Fund, consistent with the amount of funds available and with the purpose of the Fund established in Section 1.

Notwithstanding the above, 20% of the funds available each fiscal year shall be used for a workforce development program, established by Council, to assist veterans with the costs of post-secondary education.

SECTION 4. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by Mr. Schron, seconded by Ms. Conwell, the foregoing Ordinance was duly enacted.

Yeas: Conwell, Jones, Rogers, Simon, Greenspan, Miller, Brady, Germana, Gallagher, Schron and Connally

Nays: None

County Council President Date

County Executive Date

Deputy Clerk of Council Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: May 22, 2012

Committee(s) Assigned: Finance & Budgeting

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: May 22, 2012

Additional Sponsorship Requested: June 4, 2012

Second Reading: June 26, 2012

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: July 10, 2012

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