

## ATTACHMENT 2

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From: Allison Silberberg

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 12:47 PM

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Subject: For your consideration.

Dear Colleagues,

Hope you and yours have had a lovely Thanksgiving holiday.

For your consideration, during Orals on Tuesday night, I will be bringing up the idea of establishing the Alexandria Commission for Active Duty Military, Veterans, their Family Members and Caregivers (aka the "Alexandria Veterans Commission").

The mission of the Veterans Commission would be to address the needs and concerns of those who are Active Duty Military, Veterans, their Family Members and Caregivers. It would also be a repository of information.

Nearly 12 percent of the City of Alexandria are veterans. This figure does not include the number of active duty, their family members and caregivers in our city.

The Veterans Commission would support planning for and execution of the city's annual 9/11 commemoration event. In addition, a few months ago, I signed Alexandria onto Hidden Heroes, a new nonprofit started by Senator Elizabeth Dole and is dedicated to caregivers of our veterans. The Veterans Commission would work on the issues raised by Hidden Heroes among other initiatives and help in celebration of Veterans Day and other veteran-oriented activities. One focus of the Veterans Commission would be employment. It would also focus on entrepreneurship. Capitol Post, which works with AEDP, can provide assistance to the Commission.

The Alexandria Veterans Advisory Group (AVAG), an informal veterans group, is already established and functioning and can serve as a good foundation for the Veterans Commission.

Establishing a Veterans Commission is supported by the following: Emily McMahon of Capitol Post; Retired Lt. Gen. Bob Wood; John Simms (a veteran with extensive experience at MOAA); Commander Doug Gurka (American Legion Post #24, Alexandria, Virginia); Mike Faber (the Friends of Rocky Versace); and Frank Tobin (EOD Foundation).

Attached is a letter with further explanation about this idea for a Veterans Commission that expresses support from these above-mentioned individuals.

In addition, veterans and local citizens John Bordner (Vice Chair of the American Legion Post #24, Alexandria, Virginia), Kathryn Kolbe, and Patricia Webb are also supportive of the establishment of the Commission.

Like nearly all of our city boards and commissions, the Veterans Commission would not have a budget. So the fiscal impact is limited to staff time. Plus, AVAG has demonstrated repeatedly that it is willing and able to organize and take action.

In terms of composition of the Commission, I would suggest that the body have 13 members, including:

- One appointee from each Member of Council and the Mayor
- One representative from Capitol Post
- One representative from the American Legion Post, #24
- One representative from the Friends of Rocky Versace
- One representative from the EOD Foundation
- Two veterans who live in the city

I look forward to our discussion and hearing your thoughts. And of course, I welcome your input.

If we agree, we would then ask Mr. Jinks to work with staff on the ordinance to establish the Alexandria Veterans Commission.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

All my best,

Allison

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