

Item Title: Proclamation Recognizing Capital Area Veterans Stand Down Day

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners proclaims November 2, 2018 as Capital Area Veterans Stand Down Day.

Item Summary:

The Capital Area Veterans Stand Down will be held on November 2, 2018 at the South Wilmington Street Center, 1420 S. Wilmington Street Raleigh, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM. The Veterans Stand Down is a nationwide grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 40,056 homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets.

During the last fiscal year, the South Wilmington Street Center (SWSC) served 248 veterans. This event is designed to assist local veterans experiencing homelessness access a wide range of services and connect with service providers in one place, on one day with the ultimate goal of becoming employed, obtaining housing and achieving stability in their lives.

Veterans Stand Down is supported by the homeless service provider community, by citizens, businesses, and community and faith organizations. The event is sponsored by Wake County Human Services, Wake County Community Services, NC Department of Commerce Division of Employment Security, Raleigh Vet Center, and the Durham Veterans Affairs.

The Stand down committee submits a food request in the amount of \$2,000 as an estimated cost to provide food for the event. More than 800 hours of staff time and 200 hours of volunteer time are provided during the event.

The first Stand Down was held in San Diego in 1988. This is the 12th annual Stand Down event in Wake County and the 8th year at the South Wilmington Street location. The Stand Down is recognized as the most valuable outreach tool to help homeless Veterans in the nation today.

On any given night, approximately 33 veterans access the SWSC. Last fiscal year, 12% or 248 of the 2,131 guests served at SWSC were Veterans. During the Veterans Stand Down event, Vets are connected to food, haircuts, referrals, health & dental care, counseling, life skills training, employment, legal, HUD VASH vouchers for housing, and many more services. Last year's event served 203 participants.

Attachments:

1. Proclamation