

1 [Administrative Code - County Veterans Service Officer Role and Duties]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to place the County Veterans Service**
4 **Officer (“Officer”) under the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) rather**
5 **than the Department of Administrative Services; give the Director of the DAS authority**
6 **to nominate the Officer; update annual reporting requirements of the Officer to the**
7 **Board of Supervisors and Mayor; and provide administrative support to the Veterans’**
8 **Affairs Commission.**

9 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
10 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
11 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
12 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
13 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
14 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
15 subsections or parts of tables.

13

14 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

15

16 Section 1. Findings.

17 (a) California Military and Veterans Code Section 970 authorizes counties to establish
18 an appointment process for a “county veterans service officer” to administer local aid and
19 other services to veterans.

20 (b) In 1993, the City enacted Ordinance No. 26-93, which established a County
21 Veterans Service Officer for San Francisco, and placed the Officer under the Director of
22 Administrative Services.

23 (c) The Department of Disability and Aging Services coordinates services for veterans
24 in San Francisco, including aiding veterans to access benefits, and the County Veterans
25

1 Service Officer often receives referrals and accesses veterans' benefits through programs of
2 the Department of Disability and Aging Services.

3 (d) San Francisco's County Veterans Service Officer is best situated to coordinate aid
4 to veterans with other aid available to older residents from a position within the Department of
5 Disability and Aging Services, and the Executive Director of the Department of Disability and
6 Aging Services is most qualified to identify candidates to serve as County Veterans Service
7 Officer and, with the Mayor's concurrence, to recommend one or more candidates to the
8 Board of Supervisors for appointment.

9 (e) The Veterans' Affairs Commission advises the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors
10 on the needs of veterans residing in San Francisco, but currently local law does not provide
11 for the advisory body to receive administrative support from a City department.

12 (f) The City and County of San Francisco remains committed to providing outreach
13 and services to resident veterans, assisting local veterans in obtaining federal and state aid,
14 ensuring that all veterans who die in San Francisco are properly and respectfully interred, and
15 maintaining records and reports of services and aid provided to veterans in San Francisco.

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17 Section 2. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Article VIII of
18 Chapter 20, consisting of Sections 20.8-1 through 20.8-4, as follows:

19 **ARTICLE VIII: COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

20 **SEC. 20.8-1. DECLARATION OF PURPOSE OF OFFICER.**

21 The County Veterans Service Officer is created, pursuant to Section 970 of the California
22 Military and Veterans Code, for the purposes of assisting veterans in obtaining their federal
23 entitlements, implementing a proactive outreach program, and implementing a Veterans Benefits
24 Referral Program. The County Veteran Service Officer shall provide "full service" counseling and
25 referral services to the entire community of veterans and veterans' dependents in the City.

1
2 **SEC. 20.8-2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER.**

3 The County Veterans Service Officer is hereby created and is placed under the Department of
4 Disability and Aging Services (the “Department”). The Executive Director of the Department shall
5 recommend for Board of Supervisors approval the qualifications for serving as the County Veterans
6 Service Officer, including that such Officer shall be a veteran, and the compensation for the position.
7 The Executive Director shall provide said Officer with such assistance and facilities as are necessary to
8 carry out the Officer’s duties. The Executive Director shall present one or more candidates who are
9 qualified to serve as the County Veterans Service Officer pursuant to California Military and Veterans
10 Code, Section 970, to the Mayor. The Executive Director and the Mayor shall concur in the
11 nomination of a qualified candidate for appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

12
13 **SEC. 20.8-3. POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICER.**

14 The County Veterans Service Officer shall have the following powers and duties:

15 (a) Administer aid to indigent veterans, pursuant to Sections 920 through 931 of the California
16 Military and Veterans Code, and investigate all claims, applications, or requests for aid made pursuant
17 to those provisions. The main priority of the County Veterans Service Officer shall be to provide
18 outreach and services to homeless veterans.

19 (b) Assist every veteran in San Francisco of any war of the United States and the dependents of
20 every such deceased veteran in presenting and pursuing such claim as the veteran or the veterans’
21 dependents may have against the United States, arising out of war service, and in establishing the
22 veteran’s or the dependents’ right to any privilege, preference, care, or compensation provided for by
23 the laws of the United States or of California.

24 (c) Maintain annual records for audit, submit reports in accordance with procedures
25 established by the California Department of Veteran Affairs, and permit the Department of Veteran

1 Affairs' representatives to inspect all facilities and records and to examine the performance of services
2 rendered by the County Veterans Service Officer.

3 (d) In the administration of these powers and duties, the County Veterans Service Officer may
4 seek to ~~purchase or~~ lease real property through the Director of Property.

5
6 **SEC. 20.8-4. ANNUAL REPORT TO MAYOR AND BOARD.**

7 No later than March 1 of each year, the County Veterans Service Officer shall provide an
8 annual report to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on the operations of the Officer's programs, the
9 number of veterans and veterans' dependents receiving services, and results of performance measures
10 as established by the Controller. Prior to submitting the annual report to the Mayor and the Board of
11 Supervisors, the County Veterans Service Officer shall present the report in a public hearing convened
12 by the Veterans Affairs Commission, established pursuant to California Military and Veterans Code
13 Section 975 and Article XI of Chapter 5 of the Administrative Code.

14
15 Section 3. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by deleting Article XIA of
16 Chapter 5, consisting of Sections 5.108.A through 5.108.A-3, as follows:

17 **SEC. 5.108.A. ~~DECLARATION OF PURPOSE OF OFFICER.~~**

18 The County Veterans Service Officer is created for the purposes of assisting veterans in
19 obtaining their federal entitlements, implementing a proactive outreach program and a Veterans
20 Benefits Referral Program. The County Veterans Affairs Officer shall provide "full-service" counseling
21 and referral services to the entire community of veterans and the dependents or survivors of veterans of
22 the City and County of San Francisco.

23 **SEC. 5.108.A-1. ~~ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE~~**
24 **OFFICER.**

1 ~~The County Veterans Service Officer is hereby created on the recommendation of the Mayor~~
2 ~~and the Director of Administrative Services, and is placed under the Director of Administrative~~
3 ~~Services. The Director of Administrative Services shall recommend for Board of Supervisors approval~~
4 ~~the qualifications for serving as the County Veterans Service Officer and the compensation for the~~
5 ~~position. The Director of Administrative Services shall provide said Officer with such assistance and~~
6 ~~facilities as are necessary to carry out his or her duties. The Director of Administrative Services shall~~
7 ~~nominate for appointment by the Board of Supervisors candidates who are qualified to serve as the~~
8 ~~County Veterans Service Officer. Pursuant to California Military and Veterans Code, Section 970, such~~
9 ~~Officer shall be a veteran.~~

10 ~~**SEC. 5.108.A-2. POWERS AND DUTIES.**~~

11 ~~The County Veterans Service Officer shall have the following powers and duties:~~

12 ~~(a) Administer aid to indigent veterans, pursuant to Section 921 of the California Military and~~
13 ~~Veterans Code, and investigate all claims, applications, or requests for aid made pursuant to these~~
14 ~~provisions. The County Veterans Affairs Officer shall provide outreach and services to homeless~~
15 ~~veterans as its main priority.~~

16 ~~(b) Assist every veteran of any war of the United States and the dependents of every such~~
17 ~~deceased veteran in presenting and pursuing such claim as the veteran may have against the United~~
18 ~~States, arising out of war service, and in establishing the veteran's right to any privilege, preference,~~
19 ~~care, or compensation provided for by the laws of the United States or of this State.~~

20 ~~(c) Maintain annual records for audit, and shall submit reports in accordance with procedures~~
21 ~~established by the California Department of Veteran Affairs, and shall permit the Department's~~
22 ~~representatives to inspect all facilities and records and to examine the performance of services~~
23 ~~rendered by the County Veterans Service Officer.~~

24 ~~(d) Provide to the Board of Supervisors a semiannual report which shall consist of, but not be~~
25 ~~limited to, the following information: (1) number of indigent veterans served; (2) number of homeless~~

1 ~~veterans served; (3) amount of federal entitlements obtained; (4) actual savings to the City and County~~
2 ~~of San Francisco as a result of reductions in General Assistance payments, and any other City and~~
3 ~~County benefit programs to veterans who qualify for veteran's benefits.~~

4 ~~**SEC. 5.108.A.3. APPROPRIATION.**~~

5 ~~The Director of Administrative Services shall request the appropriation of funds to compensate~~
6 ~~the County Veterans Service Officer and to fund other necessary personnel, services, and facilities as~~
7 ~~may be reasonably necessary to enable the Officer to exercise his or her power and perform duties~~
8 ~~under this Section.~~

9
10 Section 4. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising Section 2A.212 of
11 Article XIII, Chapter 2A, to read as follows:

12 **SEC. 2A.212. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR VETERANS' INTERMENT**
13 **DESIGNATED.**

14 The ~~Coroner~~County Veterans Service Officer is hereby designated as Administrative
15 Officer to arrange, in consultation with the Chief Medical Examiner, for the decent interment of
16 veterans and veterans' widows pursuant to the provisions of Division 4, Chapter 5, Article 2
17 (beginning with Section 940) of the Military and Veterans Code of the State of California.

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19 Section 5. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Section 5.108 to
20 Article XI of Chapter 5, to read as follows:

21 **SEC. 5.108. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**

22 The Human Services Agency shall provide administrative and clerical support to the
23 Commission.

