



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

## City Council Interoffice Communication

**To:** Honorable Mayor Pro Tem and City Council Members  
**From:** Gil Coerper, Mayor   
**Date:** August 13, 2007  
**Subject:** ***H-ITEM FOR AUGUST 20, 2007, CITY COUNCIL MEETING –  
MANDATORY FUNDING FOR VETERAN'S HEALTHCARE  
SERVICES RESOLUTION***

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### **STATEMENT OF ISSUE:**

Mr. Robin Rustin, Voice For Veterans Services, spoke at the July 16, 2007, and August 6, 2007, City Council Meetings regarding veterans' healthcare. He is now requesting that the City Council adopt a resolution showing support for "Mandatory Funding for Veterans' Healthcare Services" (Attachment 1).

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize the City Attorney to prepare a resolution (Attachment 1) in support of mandating that the Federal government fully fund veteran's healthcare services, that the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate move to ensure that these healthcare obligations to our veterans be recognized, and that legislation be introduced and passed for signing by the President of the United States of America to guarantee full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare services.

### Attachment

xc: Penny Culbreth-Graft, City Administrator  
Paul Emery, Deputy City Administrator  
Bob Hall, Deputy City Administrator  
Joan Flynn, City Clerk  
Jennifer McGrath, City Attorney

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# RESOLUTION

## Mandatory Funding for Veterans' Healthcare Services (Including Dental and Mental Health)

Sponsored by

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**Whereas**, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) mission and motto is, "to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan"; and

**Whereas**, President George Washington stated, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportionate to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country"; and

**Whereas**, whenever the United States military has ever been called upon to send forces into harms way, including sons and daughters of our great County of \_\_\_\_\_, in the State of \_\_\_\_\_, they have proudly answered the call; and

**Whereas**, the legislative bodies of our government at all levels have recognized the importance of supporting those who serve our great country, legislation itself has fallen short of meeting the healthcare needs of our veterans. The current discretionary funding mechanisms for veterans healthcare is beset by numerous flaws preventing many veterans from receiving the quality healthcare they earned and deserve; and

**Whereas**, on March 16, 2006, the United States Senate voted down mandatory funding for veterans' healthcare services (Ref: Stabenow Amendment No. 3141), which would have insured mandatory funding for our veterans' healthcare needs (YEA 46 / NAY 54); and

**Whereas**, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources experienced by the Veterans Administration and its understaffed workforce as they attempt to process an increasing backlog of our veterans claims; and

**Whereas**, former Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi has publicly stated the

Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling to provide promised healthcare services to the rapidly rising number of veterans requiring healthcare services;

**Therefore be it resolved,** as proud citizens of this great nation we fully support mandated full funding for veterans' healthcare services; and

**Therefore be it further resolved,** the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate move to ensure that these healthcare obligations to our veterans be recognized and legislation be introduced and passed for signing by the President of the United States of America to guarantee full mandatory funding of veterans' healthcare services; and

**Therefore be it further resolved,** that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the President of the United States, members of the United States Congress and members of the United States Senate.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization/Company:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include this footnote on all copies! This Resolution was authored on (11/11.06) by Operation Firing for Effect, (OFFE). You are encouraged to duplicate and distribute this document to all interested parties and elected officials. Send all notarized copies of this Resolution to; OFFE, P.O. Box 77303, Rochester, NY 14617. Operation Firing For Effect is a bi-partisan veterans advocacy group and subsidiary of Veterans For Veteran Connection, Inc... which is a registered 501-(c)19 cooperation devoted to the improvement and protection of entitlements and services earned by our men and women in uniform. Direct all questions to OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes, (315)986-7322 - WWW.OFFE2008.ORG.)

This wording will stay the same on all 2008 election ballot State to State

***"Shall the federal government be required to adopt full mandatory funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of ensuring that all eligible honorably discharged U.S. veterans receive quality and accessible healthcare and services?"***