

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: El Paso International Airport/ Veteran and Military Affairs

AGENDA DATE: August 31, 2021

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Sam Rodriguez, Director of Aviation, 212-7301, RodriguezS3@elpasotexas.gov. Paul Albright, 212-1654, albrightPD@elpasotexas.gov.

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: Citywide

CITY STRATEGIC GOAL: #8 Nature and Promote a Healthy, Sustainable Community

SUBJECT: Resolution for the City of El Paso to recognize and support Military and Veteran caregivers and, in support of this goal, desires to join the network of "Hidden Heroes Cities", a program established by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to encourage cities to increase resources for military and veteran caregivers.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION: *Hidden Heroes* brings vital attention to the untold stories of military caregivers and seeks solutions for the tremendous challenges and long-term needs they face. Hidden Heroes goals are to raise awareness of the issues military caregivers confront every day. Inspire individuals, businesses, communities, and civic, faith and government leaders to take action in supporting military caregivers in their communities. Approval of this Resolution allows the City of El Paso to be a Hidden Heroes City in support of military and veteran caregivers. The City of El Paso will seek to identify military and veteran caregivers residing in our community and determine the unique challenges they face. Work to ensure that our government, organizations, employers and non-profits are aware of the unique challenges of military and veteran caregivers and are encouraged to create supportive environments and opportunities for assistance. In addition, plan an annual observance or resource fair to recognize the community's military and veteran caregivers in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's national Hidden Heroes campaign and connect them with local resources.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: On November 10th, 2020 Council approved a Resolution supporting the Texas Veterans Network (TVN), a collaborative, statewide initiative that connects transitioning service members, veterans, and their families to the resources and services they need to successfully transition.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION: None

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:



Sam Rodriguez, Aviation Director

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of El Paso (the “City Council”) finds that the series of wars and conflicts in which our nation has been engaged since World War II has resulted in 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers who are parents, spouses, siblings and friends, caring for those wounded, ill or injured who have served our nation, as documented by the 2014 RAND study commissioned by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the daily tasks of these military and veteran caregivers can include bathing, feeding, dressing, and caring for the grievous injuries of wounded warriors, administering medications, providing emotional support, caring for the family and the home, and working outside the home to earn essential income; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds the nation provides multi-faceted support to our wounded, ill, and injured veterans and service members through public, private and philanthropic resources, but their caregivers receive little support or acknowledgement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that most military and veteran caregivers consider the challenging work they do as simply carrying out their civic and patriotic duty, without realizing they are, in fact, caregivers, and do not identify themselves as such; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that an alarming number of military and veteran caregivers, according to research, are suffering numerous debilitating mental, physical and emotional effects as a result of their caregiving duties; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso wishes to recognize and support military and veteran caregivers; and, in support of this goal, desires to join the network of “Hidden Heroes Cities”, a program established by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to encourage cities to increase resources for military and veteran caregivers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That the City of El Paso shall be a Hidden Heroes City in support of military and veteran caregivers.
2. That the City of El Paso shall seek to identify military and veteran caregivers residing in our community and determine the unique challenges they face.
3. That the City of El Paso shall work to ensure that our government, organizations, employers and non-profits are aware of the unique challenges of military and veteran caregivers and are encouraged to create supportive environments and opportunities for assistance.
4. That the City of El Paso shall plan an annual observance or resource fair to recognize the community’s military and veteran caregivers in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation’s national Hidden Heroes campaign and connect them with local resources.
5. That the City of El Paso shall encourage all who support veterans and service members to

extend that support to the community's military and veteran caregivers.

6. That the City of El Paso shall designate a point of contact for our community, from the public or private sector, for citizens and organizations wanting to offer support, and caregivers who need that support.
7. That the City of El Paso shall use the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Military Caregiver Experience Map to understand the stages of the military caregiver journey and use it as a tool to encourage community understanding and support.

APPROVED this _____ of _____, 2021.


THE CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:


Laura Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Roberta A. Brito
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Samuel Rodriguez, P.E.
Director of Aviation