File #: 21616, **Version:** 0

IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

A RESOLUTION expressing the support of the Jackson County Legislature for the creation of a Jackson County Office of Veterans' Affairs.

RESOLUTION NO. 21616, May 6, 2024

INTRODUCED BY Megan L. Marshall, County Legislator

WHEREAS, the brave servicemembers of the armed forces sacrifice significantly to protect and serve our nation, often facing challenges that extend into their post-service lives, including higher rates of PTSD and homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, the people of Jackson County have demonstrated their support for our veterans through the approval of a new sales tax dedicated, in part, to veterans' services in April of 2023; and,

WHEREAS, ongoing litigation has delayed the implementation and threatens to overturn the democratic decision, potentially depriving our veterans of much-needed support; and,

WHEREAS, in light of the significant needs in our community and after consultation with the leadership of the Legislature, County Executive Frank White, Jr. is prepared to move forward with establishing the first ever Jackson County Office of Veterans' Affairs; and,

WHEREAS, County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) play a critical role in supporting veterans by helping them access a wide range of benefits, including but not limited to health care, financial counseling, career services, and housing assistance, which are crucial for their reintegration and well -being; and,

WHEREAS, a significant number of veterans, despite satisfaction with certain services like health care, remain unaware of other available benefits which could substantially improve their quality of life; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Jackson County Legislature hereby supports the creation and funding of a Jackson County Office of Veterans' Affairs. This office will ensure that veterans and their families receive comprehensive support in accessing the benefits they’ve earned; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the passage of this resolution, the Jackson County Executive shall have the support of this body to establish and advertise the role of County Veterans Service Officers and commence recruitment to ensure the Jackson County Office of Veterans' Services is operational and effective.

Effective Date: This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage by a majority of the Legislature.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

County Counselor

Certificate of Passage

I hereby certify that the attached resolution, Resolution No. 21616 of May 6, 2024, as duly adopted on May 13, 2024 by the Jackson County Legislature. The votes thereon were as follows:

Yeas _____5_____ Nays _____0_____

Abstaining ____3_____ Absent ____1_____

_____ _____

Date Mary Jo Spino, Clerk of Legislature

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