

SUBMITTED BY: Ana Urquijo, City Manager

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: Donald Huish, Mayor

FOCUS AREA: Collaboration

**ORGANIZATIONAL
IMPROVEMENTS:**

**SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of CITIZEN'S PETITION REGARDING VETERAN
BANNERS.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Per City Charter Article II, Section 19, Any citizen of the city may appear before the Council at any regular meeting and present a written petition. Such petitions shall be considered, and action taken thereon by the Council at the next regular meeting.

This is an action item to address requests to consider the placement of banners in honor of veterans on the city's light poles.

BACKGROUND:

On December 13, 2023, a petition was presented to Mayor and Council by Jose Grijalva and is attached to this item. The petition refers to three things to consider: 1) Show veterans proper recognition; 2) The City of Douglas has enough space to leave personalized veteran banners up permanently as each light pole has hardware on both sides to hang two banners per pole; and 3) The city needs to work with the American Legion and assist with displaying banners to honor heroes.

The petition also states the following:

- 1) The City of Douglas has been designated a Purple Heart City yet hasn't shown our veterans the proper recognition they deserve.
- 2) For Veteran's Day 2023, the American Legion decided to create personalized banners to honor our local heroes and the city quickly removed them while keeping generic banners for veterans that promoted the city instead of them.

DISCUSSION:

Staff recommendations:

Staff will continue to work with the American Legion in a positive and collaborative way to promote a hometown hero banner program.

Staff will initiate a banner program under an administrative policy for flexibility in making modifications according to changing needs along the way and for staff guidance and training purposes.

Staff will include in the banner program other themes, groups in the community, festivals, and educational organizations.

A Draft Administrative Policy is attached, which is being shared with the American Legion.

These recommendations honor local veteran heroes, honor purple heart recipients, allow for permanent placing of personalized hometown hero banners and allow for flexibility for changing needs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Relevant costs will be covered under the Business District Improvements budget line item and future costs will be included in future operating budgets.

MOTION:

“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGE THE CITIZEN’S PETITION AND DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH A BANNER PROGRAM THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY WHICH IN PART ENSURES THAT LOCAL VETERANS INCLUSIVE OF PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS ARE HONORED YEAR-ROUND IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION.”