

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO. C-7135

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MR. PHILLIPS PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE OPIOID TASK FORCE TO COMMIT TO CONTRIBUTE \$25,000 TO THE VETERAN'S SPECIALTY COURT IN 2026 AND TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE A SIMILAR AMOUNT UNTIL THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO ST. TAMMANY PARISH ARE DEPLETED OR UNTIL THE VETERAN'S SPECIALTY COURT CEASES TO EXIST.

WHEREAS, over 15,000 military Veterans have chosen to live in St. Tammany Parish upon the termination of their service in their respective branches of the military; and

WHEREAS, some of the Veterans living in St. Tammany Parish may for a variety of reasons, whether of their own accord or through no fault of their own, have occasion to be directly engaged with the St. Tammany judicial system; and

WHEREAS, the 22nd Judicial District Court Veterans Court program was created to work with Veterans to help them successfully navigate their way through the St. Tammany judicial system help them to remain in the community as a productive and responsible member of society; and

WHEREAS, recidivism data collected on veterans demonstrates that veterans who are processed through the Veterans Court are much more likely to successfully complete their required, court assigned programs, substantially reducing the recidivism rate of these same veterans, and;

WHEREAS, many of the veterans subject to oversight by the Veterans Court are subject to oversight due to alcohol and/or drug related issues and offenses, including use/abuse of Opioids, and;

WHEREAS, the Veterans Court relies on a variety of sources for the funding to operate and sustain both the court and the programs offered as part of the court on behalf of veterans, and;

WHEREAS much, if not all, of the funding received by the Veterans Court is often encumbered in some way thereby limiting how those funds may be used to help veterans, including what specific costs those funds may pay on behalf of a veteran subject to the oversight of the Veteran's Specialty Court, and;

WHEREAS, the Veterans Court could potentially expand both the services and support offered to veterans as well as increase the number of veterans being helped by the court should additional, unencumbered funds be made available to the Veterans Court, and;

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Opioid Task Force is responsible for allocating, on an annual basis, the Opioid Settlement Funds received by St. Tammany Parish for programs and projects consistent with the guidance for distribution of the same.

THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES that it requests that the Opioid Task Force consider providing \$25,000 of annual funding to help sustain and operate the Veterans Court, on behalf of St. Tammany veterans, until such time as the Opioid Settlement Funds available to the parish and managed by the Opioid Task Force are depleted or until the Veterans Court ceases to exist.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 10TH DAY OF JULY, 2025, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

JOE IMPASTATO, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL