

CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE _____
Council Bill 06-0440

Introduced by: Councilmembers Mitchell, Curran, D’Adamo, Young, Harris, Kraft, Holton,
President Dixon, Councilmembers Clarke, Welch, Rawlings Blake, Reisinger, Conaway,
Spector

Introduced and read first time: May 15, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Council action: Adopted

Read second time: November 20, 2006

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

Baltimore City Veterans Commission

FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore City Veterans Commission; providing for the
appointment, terms, powers, and duties of the Commission; providing for staff to the
Commission; defining certain terms; providing for a special effective date; and generally
relating to assisting veterans and their families.

By adding

Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies
Section(s) 49-1 through 49-9, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle,
“Subtitle 49. Baltimore City Veterans Commission”
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That
the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

Baltimore City Code

Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies

SUBTITLE 49. BALTIMORE CITY VETERANS COMMISSION

§ 49-1. “VETERAN” DEFINED”.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “VETERAN” MEANS A PERSON WHO:

(1) SERVED IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE OF:

(I) THE ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS, OR AIR FORCE;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by
amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1 (II) THE COAST GUARD, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS, OR
2 MERCHANT MARINES;

3 (III) THE ARMY, AIR, OR STATE NATIONAL GUARD; OR

4 (IV) A RESERVE COMPONENT OF ONE OF THESE SERVICES; AND

5 (2) WAS RELEASED FROM THAT SERVICE OTHER THAN BY DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE.

6 **§ 49-2. COMMISSION ESTABLISHED.**

7 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

8 THERE IS A BALTIMORE CITY VETERANS COMMISSION.

9 (B) *COMPOSITION.*

10 THE COMMISSION COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING 11 MEMBERS:

11 (1) 5 MEMBERS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IV,
12 § 6 OF THE CITY CHARTER;

13 (2) 4 MEMBERS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL;

14 (3) THE POLICE COMMISSIONER OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE; AND

15 (4) THE FIRE CHIEF OR THE CHIEF'S DESIGNEE.

16 (C) *QUALIFICATIONS.*

17 EACH APPOINTED MEMBER MUST BE A VETERAN.

18 **§ 49-3. PURPOSE.**

19 THE VETERANS COMMISSION IS DEDICATED TO:

20 (1) PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY, ARE EMPLOYED BY
21 THE CITY, OR ARE RETIRED CITY EMPLOYEES, AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHEN IN NEED;
22 AND

23 (2) WORKING WITH THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, VETERANS GROUPS, AND OTHERS ON
24 POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND CONCERNS RELATED TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

25 **§ 49-4. TERMS, COMPENSATION, VACANCIES.**

26 (A) *TERMS OF OFFICE.*

27 (1) COMMISSION MEMBERS SERVE FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS, CONCURRENT WITH THE
28 TERMS OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

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1 (2) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS
2 APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

3 (B) *COMPENSATION; EXPENSES.*

4 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:

5 (1) ARE NOT ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES; BUT

6 (2) ARE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED, AS PROVIDED IN THE
7 ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

8 (C) *VACANCIES.*

9 A MEMBER APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY IN AN UNEXPIRED TERM OR TO SUCCEED A
10 MEMBER WHO IS HOLDING OVER SERVES ONLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT TERM.

11 **§ 49-5. OFFICERS; COMMITTEES.**

12 (A) *OFFICERS.*

13 (1) THE MAYOR SHALL DESIGNATE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION TO SERVE AS ITS
14 CHAIR.

15 (2) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION MAY SELECT ANY OTHER OFFICERS THEY CONSIDER
16 NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE.

17 (B) *COMMITTEES.*

18 THE CHAIR MAY APPOINT COMMITTEES TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN CARRYING OUT ITS
19 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

20 **§ 49-6. MEETINGS; QUORUM.**

21 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

22 (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR AS FREQUENTLY AS
23 REQUIRED TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES.

24 (2) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONSTITUTES A QUORUM FOR THE
25 TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.

26 (3) AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE BY THE MAJORITY OF A QUORUM IS NEEDED FOR ANY OFFICIAL
27 ACTION.

28 (B) *RULES OF PROCEDURE.*

29 THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT RULES OF PROCEDURE TO GOVERN ITS MEETINGS AND
30 OPERATIONS.

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1 (C) *FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS.*

2 IF ANY MEMBER IS ABSENT FROM REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS MORE THAN 3 TIMES
3 IN 1 YEAR, NOT COUNTING ABSENCES EXCUSED BY THE CHAIR:

4 (1) THE MEMBER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED; AND

5 (2) THE CHAIR SHALL REQUEST THAT MEMBER'S APPOINTING AUTHORITY TO FILL THE
6 RESULTANT VACANCY.

7 **§ 49-6. PERSONNEL; BUDGET.**

8 (A) *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.*

9 (1) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT A PROPERLY QUALIFIED PERSON AS ITS EXECUTIVE
10 DIRECTOR.

11 (2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO A SALARY, AS PROVIDED IN THE
12 ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

13 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL PERFORM THE DUTIES THAT THE COMMISSION
14 PRESCRIBES.

15 (B) *STAFF.*

16 (1) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY EMPLOY A STAFF AS PROVIDED IN THE ORDINANCE OF
17 ESTIMATES.

18 (2) STAFF MEMBERS SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE.

19 (C) *VOLUNTEERS.*

20 THE COMMISSION MAY ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS AND
21 CONSULTANTS, WITHOUT SALARY, AS IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME.

22 (D) *BUDGET.*

23 THE COMMISSION MAY EXPEND FUNDS AS AUTHORIZED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES
24 OR IN ANY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.

25 **§ 49-8. POWERS AND DUTIES.**

26 (A) *ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS, ETC.*

27 THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSIST VETERANS WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY, ARE EMPLOYED BY
28 THE CITY, OR ARE RETIRED CITY EMPLOYEES, AND THEIR FAMILIES, IN MATTERS RELATING
29 TO:

30 (1) EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AND RETRAINING SERVICES AND FACILITIES;

31 (2) HEALTH, MEDICAL, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES;

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1 (3) SPECIAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PROVIDED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS
2 AND REGULATIONS;

3 (4) EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES; AND

4 (5) OTHER MATTERS OF A RELATED OR SIMILAR NATURE.

5 (B) *INFORMATION RESOURCE.*

6 THE COMMISSION SHALL SERVE AS A RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO
7 VETERANS' ISSUES.

8 (C) *COMMUNITY AWARENESS.*

9 THE COMMISSION SHALL UNDERTAKE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS TO:

10 (1) INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF VETERANS' RIGHTS;

11 (2) HONOR AND MEMORIALIZE DECEASED VETERANS; AND

12 (3) HONOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.

13 **§ 49-9. AGENCY COOPERATION.**

14 AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION, ALL CITY OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES SHALL COOPERATE
15 WITH THE COMMISSION AND EXTEND THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES THAT THE COMMISSION
16 REQUIRES.

17 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
18 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
19 Ordinance.

20 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on ~~the 30th day~~
21 ~~after the date it is enacted~~ January 1, 2007.

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Certified as duly passed this _____ day of _____, 20__

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,
this _____ day of _____, 20__

Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__

Mayor, Baltimore City