

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**



**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS RESOURCES AVAILABLE
THROUGH BOSTON'S VETERAN SERVICES DURING THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS: The 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, has infected hundreds of thousands of people worldwide so far, and its spread has impacted millions as governments and institutions have placed restrictions on travel and closed facilities;

WHEREAS: COVID-19 is impacting everyone, including veterans and military families, many of whom are in need of services and benefits that may be disrupted because of COVID-19; *and*

WHEREAS: It is critical we discuss specific programs and services available to veterans and military families, including the Veterans Administration Health Care System, city and state financial assistance available to low-income veterans, ensuring we continue to identify homeless veterans and provide them with access to housing and recovery services; *and*

WHEREAS: In general, elderly are more susceptible to COVID-19 infections, and we have many elderly veterans who might be at risk. Moreover, veterans rely on the Veterans Health Administration (VA) hospitals for their care, which might not be the closest hospital to a veteran if they need urgent care; *and*

WHEREAS: We need to ensure that as testing expands, our veterans are able to access those tests if they visit VA hospitals; *and*

WHEREAS: Moreover, for disabled veterans and older veterans who has challenges with travel, it will be difficult for them to get food or shop for groceries because of COVID-19, therefore we need to think about ways to ensure that our elderly and disabled veterans are able to access food if there are travel restrictions; *and*

WHEREAS: Veterans and military families have proudly served our country and earned their benefits, and we must ensure that they are able to receive services and benefits that they are entitled to during the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss resources available to veterans and military families through Boston's Veteran Services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Representatives from the City of Boston's Veterans Services, the VA Boston Healthcare System, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.