



CITY OF TEMPE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Council Meeting Date: 04/14/2016
Agenda Item: 5C3

ACTION: Adopt a resolution authorizing the Tempe Municipal Court to accept grant funding from the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to establish an East Valley Regional Veterans' Court. (Resolution No. R2016.35)

FISCAL IMPACT: The amount of the grant award is \$100,000 in state funds. Acceptance of this grant does not require any matching City funds. This grant award will supplement the Tempe Municipal Court's existing General Fund budget appropriation. Sufficient budget appropriation for expenditure of this grant was authorized for fiscal year 2015-16, and a new fund and cost center will be established.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution No. R2016.35.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Tempe Municipal Court is one of only two courts in the east valley that offer a Veterans' docket. The creation of an East Valley Regional Veterans' Court would enable all veterans who are cited into east valley courts to resolve their matters via a treatment court. It would also provide these veterans with the opportunity to utilize the benefits that they have earned through their military service as a part of their treatment program.

A crucial component of the East Valley Regional Veterans' Court is to have a Regional Veterans' Court Coordinator who will coordinate Regional Veterans' Court resources and dockets for all participating courts. The Tempe Municipal Court applied for and was awarded the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services state grant on behalf of east valley municipal courts. The grant will fund 100% of the salary and benefits of the Veterans' Court Coordinator, and related expenses, i.e. equipment, supplies, training, for one year. We have the opportunity to apply for funding in future years, which we intend to do.

This collaborative and strategic approach to assist more veterans based on a proven model will benefit individuals, families, and communities.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution, Grant Award Letter

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