

	<p>National Disabled Veterans Business Council, Inc. 8470 Egret Lakes Lane West Palm Beach, FL 33412 561.289.7308 / 518.878.3701 Web: www.ndvbc.org</p>
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Proposed Article 11 Amendment Language

Justification:

AN ACT to amend Article 11, in relation to expanding opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises. Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation after California and Texas with more than 1.6 million veterans – 12 percent of the Sunshine State’s population 18 and over. Wartime veterans make up about 75 percent of Florida’s total veteran population (1.2 million). There are more Vietnam-era veterans than any other wartime category in Florida with more than 498,000. There are more than 231,000 veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq who claim Florida as their home of record. Florida has more than 160,000 women veterans. Florida has the largest population of World War II veterans in the nation with more than 164,000.

Florida has the third largest population of disabled veterans in the nation with more than 249,000. In honor of their service to, and sacrifice for, our nation, the City of Boca Raton, Florida declares that it is the policy of the City of Boca Raton to promote and encourage the continuing economic development of service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

In the furtherance of this policy, the City of Boca Raton aims to assist service-disabled veterans in playing a greater role in the economy of the City and the State, as well as, to provide additional assistance and support to service disabled veteran owned small businesses, and to better equip them to form and expand small businesses, thereby enabling them to realize the American dream they served to protect. To achieve this objective without disrupting the procurement practice and priorities already in law, the Boca Raton City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the economic development of the City of Boca Raton to amend Article 11.

Develop comprehensive City wide plans and operational guidelines to promote service-disabled veteran-owned small business enterprises and to assist them in obtaining opportunities to participate in the procurement of goods and services by the City of Boca Raton, including identification of barriers to service-disabled veterans' business development and investigation and evaluation of their impact on achieving the objectives of this Article 11 amendment. Coordinate training of all procurement personnel of City agencies and departments, emphasizing increased sensitivity and responsiveness to the unique needs and requirements of service-disabled veteran-owned small business enterprises.



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Provide advice and technical assistance to promote service-disabled veteran-owned small business enterprises' in understanding the City of Boca Raton's procurement laws, practices and procedures to facilitate and increase the participation of service-disabled veteran-owned small business enterprises in City procurement.

Establish regular performance reporting systems regarding implementation of the programs designed to increase service-disabled veteran-owned small business participation in procurement contracts by City agencies and departments. Submit a report to include information about the number of service-disabled veteran-owned small business enterprises certified by the State of Florida's Office of Supplier Diversity, the number of applications for certification as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business enterprises, the number of denials for such certification, the number of appeals of such denials, and the outcome of such appeals and the average time that is required for such certification to be completed.

Achieve a city wide goal for participation on contracts by service-disabled veteran-owned small business enterprises domiciled in the State of Florida of **six percent**. Provide for the requirement that city agencies and departments submit regular reports, with respect to their service-disabled veteran-owned small business enterprise program activity, including but not limited to, utilization reporting and city contract monitoring and compliance.

Provide for the reservation or set-a-side of certain procurements by city agencies and departments in order to achieve the objectives of this amendment. Any and all existing goal programs including, but not limited to, minority-owned business enterprises, women-owned business enterprises, **shall be separate** goals from this amendment for Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Enterprises.