

## **EXHIBIT A: Proposed Amendments for Subcommittees**

### **RE: Proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 31746 – Expansion of Veteran Affairs Commission Capacity through Subcommittees**

#### **Purpose**

To propose an amendment to Article XXIX of Chapter 2 of the Dallas City Code (Ordinance No. 31746), authorizing the creation and operation of subcommittees within the Veteran Affairs Commission, enabling more agile and issue-specific engagement with City departments and stakeholders.

#### **Background**

The Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC), established under Ordinance No. 31746, is tasked with advising City leadership on veterans' needs, program development, and service coordination. Since its inception, the VAC has delivered value through monthly sessions, but faces logistical constraints when addressing urgent, technical, or domain-specific concerns.

The proposed amendment supports the formation of standing or ad hoc subcommittees, specialized working groups under the umbrella of the VAC, to meet more frequently and interact directly with City staff, service providers, and stakeholders.

#### **Rationale for Amendment**

- **Enhance responsiveness** to emerging challenges in veterans' services (housing instability, mental health access, employment gaps).
- **Facilitate direct engagement** with the City Manager's office on operational issues that require technical input or programmatic detail.
- **Promote strategic planning** through themed working groups capable of generating deliverables between full Commission meetings.
- **Strengthen coordination** with City departments by providing consistent points of contact and feedback loops on targeted issues.

#### **Proposed Amendment Language**

##### **Add subsection (e) to Section 2-170 of Article XXIX, Dallas City Code:**

(e) The veteran affairs commission may establish standing or ad hoc subcommittees composed of commission members to address specific areas of veteran affairs, including housing, mental health, employment, service coordination, and community outreach.

Subcommittees may meet with greater frequency than the full commission and shall comply with applicable public meeting and transparency requirements.

The commission chair shall appoint members to each subcommittee, subject to majority confirmation by the commission.

Each subcommittee shall submit regular reports of findings and recommendations to the full commission for approval before submission to the city manager or city council.

### **Suggested Subcommittee Themes**

<b>Subcommittee</b>	<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Alignment</b>
Housing & Shelter Access	Homelessness prevention, transitional housing, affordability programs	City Housing and Homelessness Office
Mental Health & Wellness	Coordination with city behavioral health partners, trauma-informed care	Office of Community Care & Health and Human Services
Employment & Training	Workforce pipelines, veterans entrepreneurship, employer partnerships	Office of Workforce Development
Community Engagement	Public awareness, advocacy campaigns, cultural recognition events	Public Information Office, Neighborhood Services
Service Coordination	Mapping provider networks, optimizing referrals, bridging gaps	City Manager's Office, Data and Performance Unit

### **Expected Impact**

- **Greater executive-level input:** Subcommittees can serve as direct liaisons with City departments and leadership.
- **Faster action cycles:** Recommendations and field insights can be gathered and proposed more rapidly.
- **Broader community reach:** Diverse subcommittees can engage different sectors and veterans' service providers.
- **Improved implementation oversight:** Subcommittees can track results and assess efficacy of approved initiatives.