MOTION: ANGRY January 12, 2021

SECOND: Regular Meeting Res. No. 21-027

RE: CREATE AND ESTABLISH THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VETERANS

COMMISSION

ACTION: APPROVED

WHEREAS, at Supervisor Victor Angry's request, the Board of County Supervisors (Board) issued Directive Number 4970 on January 21, 2020, directing County staff and the County Attorney's Office to work with his office to bring a proposal before the Board for the creation of a County Veterans Commission; and

WHEREAS, Directive Number 4970 states that, "this Commission should be representative of the veterans community in the County, including the different branches of the armed forces, different eras of the service in the armed forces, different ranks and areas of service, including officers and enlisted members, and relatives of veterans;" and

WHEREAS, Directive Number 4970 states that, "the Commission is intended to provide an additional opportunity for veterans and their relatives to discuss and consider issues and concerns of importance to the Veterans community, and then share these issues and concerns with the Board, including any Commission recommendations on potential action for the Board's consideration;" and

WHEREAS, several organizations currently serve veterans of the United State's armed forces in the County; however, there is no single group that brings these organizations together or that advises the Board on issues related to veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Board fully supports veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their families, and recognizes their service and sacrifice to our country, and the serious and unique issues facing veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Veterans Commission would create an advisory group to the Board that advocates for issues related to veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their families, and exemplifies the Board's and the County's commitment to veterans and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby creates and establishes the Prince William County Veterans Commission (Commission) to work with veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their families, members of the community interested in veterans' issues, and other veterans organizations working with and serving veterans of the U.S. armed forces to identify areas or issues of importance and/or concerns to the veterans community, and make such reports and recommendations to the Board as the Commission deems necessary and/or appropriate on how to address veterans' issues and concerns;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will consist of eight (8) member appointed by the Board, one member representing each magisterial district and one member appointed At-Large, such members to be appointed by the Board at a future Board meeting(s);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission should be made of up veterans who are honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces (as shown on the DD 214) and represent the different branches of the U.S. armed forces (to include, but not limited to Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, The Reserves and National Guard), all ranks and areas of service, officers and enlisted members; relatives of veterans of the U.S. armed forces; individuals interested in veterans' issues; and veterans organizations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commission members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and have terms coterminous with the Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will elect a Chair and Vice Chair, and may adopt a charter, by-laws, and rules of procedure as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will hold an annual meeting and such other meetings as it deems necessary or appropriate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Executive is directed to provide a County staff liaison to the Commission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will, as it deems necessary or appropriate, coordinate with other veterans organizations, and the federal and state governments, to help provide information to veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their families about information, resources, and services.

Votes:

Ayes: Angry, Bailey, Boddye, Candland, Franklin, Lawson, Vega, Wheeler

Nays: None

Absent from Vote: None **Absent from Meeting:** None

ATTEST: Andrea P. Madden