



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

APPROVED
BY ORANGE COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 2, 2014

MAY 13 2014 K.H/BS

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
AND
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Linda Weinberg, Deputy County Administrator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Weinberg", written over the printed name.

CONTACT: Ronda Robinson, Assistant to Deputy County Administrator
(407) 836-2857

SUBJECT: **BCC Consent Item - May 13, 2014**
Approval of Resolution of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners regarding the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park

The State of Florida is home to the second largest veteran population in the nation. As this population continues to grow both throughout Florida and in Orange County, it is essential to plan for the future medical care of our service men and women.

To support the future care for these service men and women, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is slated to open a new medical center at Lake Nona. In the context of opening of the new Lake Nona facility, the future of the existing Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park has become uncertain.

For more than a decade, the Baldwin Park clinic has provided essential medical services to veterans throughout Orange County. In recent months, the Florida Congressional Delegation for the Orange County area has rallied in its request of the federal government to allow the Baldwin Park clinic to remain open. As a part of the legislative effort, Mayor Jacobs and the Board of County Commissioners have been asked to approve a resolution supporting the continued function of the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park.

If you have any questions on this item, please contact Ronda Robinson at 407-836-2857.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of Resolution of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners regarding the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park.

Enclosure

C: Dana Crosby-Collier, Assistant County Attorney

MAY 13 2014 KH/BS

RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

regarding

THE VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE CENTER AT BALDWIN PARK

Resolution No. 2014-M-21

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is home to the second largest veteran population in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Central Florida is home to more than 400,000 veterans and it is anticipated that these numbers will dramatically increase in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) desires to ensure that military veterans, their families, and survivors living in this area receive high quality benefits and services ; and

WHEREAS, to provide for the future care of service men and women, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is slated to open a new medical center at Lake Nona; and

WHEREAS, with the scheduled opening of the Lake Nona medical center, the future of the existing Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park has become uncertain; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park is a valuable federal asset and is necessary to ensure the increasing number of veterans receive timely and appropriate health services; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, members of the Florida Congressional Delegation for the central Florida area, including U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, and U.S. Representatives John Mica, Daniel Webster, Corrine Brown, and Alan Grayson, have sent letters to the VA urging the VA to keep the Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park open for use by Central Florida's veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Congressional Delegation has requested the Board support its efforts to keep the Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park open; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby expresses its support of the efforts of the Florida Congressional Delegation to keep the Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park open and in service to veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board hereby affirms its support for and commitment to keeping the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park open and in service to Orange County veterans and other veterans living in the area and hereby urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to not close this facility.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

Adopted this ____ day of MAY 13 2014, 2014.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: *Teresa Jacobs*
Teresa Jacobs
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: *Katie Smith*
Deputy Clerk

