

November 24, 2014

To: Mayor Bemrich and City Council
From: David Fierke, City Manager
Subject: Approve Home Base Iowa Resolution



ACTION: For vote, Monday, November 24, 2014

Brief History

Governor Branstad signed the Home Base Iowa Act into law on May 26, 2014. Which provides efforts to recruit veterans to the State of Iowa. It includes the following provisions: Military Pension Tax Exemption, Military Homeownership Assistance Program, Veteran hiring preference, streamlined occupation licensure, Free license plates, Automatic in-state tuition and special academic credit for military training and experience.

Though their service, veterans have proven they share the values we hold dear as Iowans - hard work, leadership and patriotism, among others. Home Base Iowa allows veterans to find the right job for them in Iowa, and to become a part of our communities.

Analysis of Issue

In an effort to support the Home Base Iowa Act, the City of Fort Dodge, in partnership with Webster County, Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance and Mid Iowa Growth Partnership created an incentive package that will be offered to veterans in addition to the state provisions, in an effort to recruit veterans to our region. Incentives package attached.

Today's competition for workforce is becoming more intense and skills gaps are present in our existing workforce so bringing these veterans to our region will also provide assistance to our local businesses and industries.

Budget Impact

N/A

Strategic Plan Impact

- Policy C.1.15: Activities that bring new people and businesses to the area, including special events, sports tournaments, tourism and convention activities, shall be encouraged and supported.
- Policy C.1.11: Opportunities to link the City of Fort Dodge economy to surrounding communities and counties shall be actively pursued.

Existing Plan Impact

This action is consistent with the 2030 Plan.

Subcommittee or Commission Review / Recommendation

The Webster County Home Base Iowa committee and the Mid Iowa Growth Home Base Iowa task force is recommending that the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Fort Dodge support their efforts to establish a Home Base Iowa Community and Region with a supporting the attached incentive package.

Staff Conclusions / Recommendations

Honor and support our veterans by approving the Home Base Iowa resolution of support and attached incentive package.

Alternatives

The alternative would be to not approve the Home Base Iowa resolution of support and incentive package

Implementation and Accountability

If Council approves the Home Base Iowa resolution of support and incentive package, a website will be established by the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance for the veterans to access local job opportunities, community amenities and services.

Approved

David R. Fierke
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**CITY OF FORT DODGE
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HOME BASE IOWA ACT**

WHEREAS, through their steadfast defense of America's ideals, our service members have ensured our country still stands strong, our founding principles still shine, and nations around the world know the blessings of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the selflessness of our service members is unmatched, and they remind us that there are few things more fundamentally American than doing our utmost to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, just as our veterans stood watch on freedom's frontier, so have they safeguarded the prosperity of our Nation in our neighborhoods, our businesses, and our homes; and

WHEREAS, serving as teachers and engineers, parents and local government employees, these patriots have made contributions to civilian life that serve as a testament to their dedication to the welfare of our country; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Iowa signed the Home Base Iowa Act into law on May 26, 2014 which provides for efforts to recruit veterans to the State of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Mayor and City Council wish to honor and support individuals who have served our country as veterans and continue serving our city as local community leaders; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Fort Dodge that the City supports the efforts of Webster County and Mid Iowa Growth Partnership to establish a Home Base Iowa Community and Region, including the City of Fort Dodge, and strongly encourages community support for this important initiative.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa this 24th day of November, 2014.

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Other: _____

City of Fort Dodge, Iowa

Matt Bemrich, Mayor

Attest:

Jeff Nemmers, City Clerk

Home Base Iowa Fort Dodge
Welcome/Incentive Package

1. Resident tuition for all veterans and the immediate families at Iowa Central Community College (ICCC).
2. Free book rentals if VA benefits do not cover that cost at ICCC.
3. Free admission to all ICCC campus activities such as sporting events, musicals, plays, and fine art events for veterans and their families.
4. One on one assistance with GI Bill paperwork with VA certifying official on ICCC campus.
5. Veterans recognized at ICCC graduation by wearing Red, White and Blue cord (pending board approval).
6. ICCC will work with veterans to make sure they have books/tools the first day of class even if their VA funds have not been sent to ICCC.
7. ICCC Rec Center discount even if not a current student.
8. Welcome gift basket from ICCC including but not limited to a punch card for 10 free meals in the cafeteria, Iowa Central apparel, draw string bag, lanyard and a thank-you note from Iowa Central for serving our country.
9. ICCC offers a Veteran's Day program.
10. ICCC has scholarships available to help with tuition for those who don't receive full payment from VA.
11. Free initiation fees and first year membership dues to veterans joining the Fort Dodge Noon Lions Club.
12. Veterans will be provided a personalized guided tour of the community (by a Veteran when available) courtesy of the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance.
13. The City of Fort Dodge offers 5 year 100% tax abatement on the first \$75,000 on a new home or home improvements.
14. The City of Fort Dodge offers \$25 in "Rec Bucks" to be used at Rosedale Rapids Aquatic Center or Lakeside Municipal Golf Course.
15. The Fort Dodge Community Recreation Center offers a 5 day punch card to be used at any of their 3 locations. If a membership is purchased, the first month is free.
16. \$100 Voucher towards one night's stay at a participating Webster County hotel/motel.
17. \$50 food voucher at a participating Webster County restaurant.
18. Welcome basket from the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance.