

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Deborah Renner, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Support for “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves” Program

DATE: December 8, 2009

PURPOSE:

To express support for the Florida Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) Committee’s Statement of Support (SOS) program.

BACKGROUND

The Florida ESGR Committee has requested that member cities of the Florida League of Cities execute a “Statement of Support” for the efforts and principles of the ESGR. The ESGR provides free education, consultation, and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve Employees. The Goal of the ESGR is to support America’s employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure national security.

Florida became the first state in the nation to have 100% of the League of Cities membership registered as of October 7, 2009 and a certificate has been sent to each city for execution. In addition to execution of the “Statement of Support,” a resolution formalizing the City’s position on this program has been prepared for your consideration (Resolution No. 580-09).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve Resolution No. 580-09 endorsing the Florida ESGR program and authorizing the Mayor to sign the “Statement of Support.”.

RESOLUTION NO. 580-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE CITY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING EMPLOYER SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE IN FURTHERANCE OF OUR COUNTRY'S SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING TIME OF NEED; FURTHER INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT SAME TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYEE SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Orange City, as an employer who proffers unconditional support for the Guard and Reserve recognizes that the National Guard and Reserve are essential to the strength of our nation and the well being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, in the highest of American tradition, the patriotic men and women of the Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession; whereby they are trained to respond to their community and their country during time of need; further acknowledging that said individuals deserve the support of every segment of our society; and

WHEREAS, if these volunteer forces are to continue to serve our nation, increased public understanding is required of the essential role of the Guard and Reserve in preserving our national security.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE CITY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Council does hereby join other employees in pledging that it fully recognizes, honors and enforces the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

SECTION 3. That our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

SECTION 4. That we will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crisis, and in war.

SECTION 5. That the City Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to both the chairman of the National Committee and the Chair of the Florida Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

SECTION 6. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council of the City of Orange City, Florida.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

Gary Blair	_____	Jeff H. Allebach	_____
O. William Crippen	_____	Tom Abraham	_____
Anthony Pupello	_____	Tom Laputka, Vice Mayor	_____
Harley Strickland, Mayor	_____		

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2009.

ATTEST:

Deborah J. Renner, CMC, City Clerk

AUTHENTICATED:

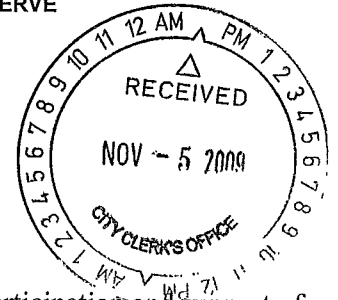
Harley Strickland, Mayor

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

W. E. Reischmann, City Attorney



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FLORIDA COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE
2983 Compton Way, Tallahassee FL 32309



RE: Statement of Support for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR)

Dear Florida League of Cities Members,

On behalf of the Florida ESGR Committee it is my honor to thank you for your outstanding participation and support of ESGR's Statement of Support (SOS) program. The Florida League of Cities (FLC) unanimously passed a resolution in support of this effort at their 15 August Annual Conference in Orlando and your effort and support resulted in Florida becoming the **FIRST** state in the nation to have **100%** of the FLC membership executing the Statement of Support. This is a major milestone and sets the example for the rest of the nation to follow. We are confident the rest of the League of Cities across the nation will follow your lead. The FLC leadership will be assisting the other League of Cities to match what you have accomplished.

ESGR is a Department of Defense Organization and its committee members volunteer their time in support of the men and women of the National Guard and Reserves, their families and employers. ESGR provides free education, consultation and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security.

Your League President, Mayor John R. Marks, III sent a letter to everyone announcing this effort and initiated steps for the FL ESGR Committee to complete the application process for all of the members that desired to participate. The registration for all 410 members of the Florida League Cities was completed on 07 October. As of this date, you became a SOS member and part of the First state to reach the 100% mark.

You will find enclosed the SOS with the name of your City/Town printed and ready for signature by the official of your choice. We recommend you sign this upon receipt. The Florida ESGR Committee is offering to participate with as many as possible of the 410 FLC members in a formal presentation of the SOS during a Commission Meeting or other venue of your choosing. We have participated in a number of these presentations in the past and they are hugely rewarding for all concerned. In fact, we presented the first of the 410 SOSs to your President Mayor Marks and the City of Tallahassee on 07 October. It was great event and covered by media which spread the word of the selfless service of these Reservists and their Families and how the City of Tallahassee has committed itself to supporting these great American Patriots.

When we do the SOS presentation, we like to have the Cities/Towns invite all of their Employees that are members of the Reserve Components to participate along with their spouses to be recognized and honored for their service. We also give the Commissioners the opportunity to sign a SOS during the presentation and offer the audience the opportunity to join the City/Town and Commissioners in signing a SOS for their companies. The SOS presentation enhances the community and businesses awareness and support for the Men and Women of the Guard and Reserves.

If you would like to have a FL ESGR Committee member participate in your SOS presentation, please send us an email request at FL.SOS@floridaesgr.com. Please include your point of contact, email address, phone numbers and possible ceremony dates, so we can work together to schedule a date and time.

I know many of you executed the SOS in the past and we thank you for your support. We are registering you again as a reconfirming of your support and encouraging you to participate in a formal presentation of this new SOS to emphasize your patriotic commitment and to encourage others businesses and organizations in your community to follow your leadership.

If you would like to script a Resolution, we have enclosed a recent one by Mayor Don Slesnick of Coral Gables. A resolution is not required, but it certainly adds additional emphasis to the Event.





STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GUARD AND RESERVE



CITY of ORANGE CITY

We recognize the National Guard and Reserve are essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities.

In the highest American tradition, the patriotic men and women of the Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession. They train to respond to their community and their country in time of need. They deserve the support of every segment of our society.

If these volunteer forces are to continue to serve our nation, increased public understanding is required of the essential role of the Guard and Reserve in preserving our national security.

Therefore, we join other employers in pledging that:

- We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- We will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crisis, and in war.

Employer

Chairman
National Committee for Employer
Support of the Guard and Reserve

Secretary of Defense

Date

