



November 26, 2019

Ald. Chantia Lewis  
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## Common Council approves creation of Office of Veterans' Affairs

Today, the Common Council approved an ordinance (file #190449) creating an Office of Veterans' Affairs in the City of Milwaukee. The legislation was authored by **Alderman Chantia Lewis**, and makes Milwaukee the 8<sup>th</sup> city nationally with such an office.

Alderman Lewis, an Air Force Veteran, believes an Office of Veterans' Affairs would be of great value to the city. "The City of Milwaukee is certainly veteran friendly, but we can do better. There is a need when it comes to disseminating information and providing access to programs, and I believe this office can help tackle those key issues and much more. Over time, I think this office can be a one stop shop for veterans and help supplement offerings provided by Milwaukee County," she said.

The Office of Veterans' Affairs would be responsible for the administration, coordination and implementation of the city's policies relating to the special needs of the city's military veteran residents, their families and caregivers, and would be staffed by an executive director. The executive director would serve as a liaison and facilitate partnerships between Milwaukee, state and federal agencies, and public- and private-sector organizations to improve access to available resources and opportunities for veterans.

The legislation also creates a Veterans' Affairs Advisory Council. This nine person council, comprised of veterans, would be responsible for making recommendations to the Common Council and the executive director of the Office of Veterans' Affairs on matters of importance to veterans in Milwaukee.