



# Veterans Court - Mayor Weiers CIOSI

Glendale City Court, Nicholas C. DiPiazza, Presiding Judge





# Council Special Item of Interest

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This presentation will respond to the Council Special Item of Interest articulated by Mayor Weiers on January 12, 2021:

To fully examine the requirements and resources necessary for the implementation of a Veterans Court in Glendale.



# Mission

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- To enhance public safety and reduce recidivism by adjudicating cases involving Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, while ensuring justice for victims and the accused, by coordinating efforts with the VA to provide targeted services to achieve sustained accountability and successful reintegration into the community.

A reduction in crimes perpetrated by Veterans and mitigation of unemployment and homelessness within the community of those who served, through the appropriate adjudication of cases and by addressing issues at the root of crime involving Veterans.



# BACKGROUND

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- Veterans Courts have been in existence for many years nationwide. In Arizona, Phoenix, seven East Valley cities and Lake Havasu City all have a Veterans Courts and they have continually achieved positive results.
- Efforts are underway in the Maricopa County Justice Courts to establish a Veterans Court at the NW Regional Court Center, located in Surprise, that will accept cases from the 26 Maricopa County Justice Courts (not from city courts).



# West Valley Regional Veterans Court

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- A Veterans Court in and for West Valley Cities is long overdue.
- There has been a growing interest in establishing a consolidated West Valley Regional Veterans Court to service Municipal Court cases.
- We have an opportunity now, for Glendale to exercise a leadership role by establishing a Veterans Court.



# Concept of Operations

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- The Glendale City Court Veterans Court will go beyond providing judgments. It will endeavor to identify and address issues that are at the root of the commission of crime and the condition of homelessness by Veterans.
- The City Court will initially use existing resources to implement a Veterans Court. Size and scope of the program will be managed to remain within budget.



## Concept of Operations (cont.)

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- The Court, in cooperation with partners, will develop innovative “pre” or “post” adjudicative solutions, as may be appropriate to each case, in order to achieve the Mission of Veterans Court, one case at a time.
- The Court will leverage services provided by and through the VA. It will also continually seek available grants and other resources necessary to achieve solutions, enhance the program and improve customer service.



# Conclusion

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- With the consensus of Council, the Glendale City Court team will proceed with the implementation of Veterans Court with a projected commencement of operations on October 1, 2021.
- The Court will engage other West Valley Municipal Courts seeking to join and will negotiate IGAs providing for participation and cost sharing.



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Questions?

Glendale City Court  
Nicholas C. DiPiazza  
Presiding Judge