



West Valley Regional Veterans Court

Glendale City Court, Nicholas C. DiPiazza, Presiding Judge





Council Special Item of Interest

This presentation will follow – up on 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.



Veterans Court Mission

- 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.



WVRVC Vision

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.

The WVRVC will expand the operational definition of “community” from the confines of the City of Glendale and now encompass the entire West Valley.



BACKGROUND

- 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.
- The Maricopa County Justice Courts also established a Veterans Court at the NW Regional Court Center, located in Surprise, that accepts cases from the 26 Maricopa County Justice Courts, but not from city courts.



West Valley Regional Veterans Court

- A Veterans Court for West Valley Municipal Courts is long overdue.
- The Glendale City Court has successfully operated a Veterans Court since October 2021.
- We have a “green light” to proceed from the Presiding Judge, Superior Court, Maricopa County.
- We are ready now, for Glendale to exercise a leadership role by establishing a West Valley Regional Veterans Court.



Concept of Operations

- 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.



Concept of Operations (con't.)

- The City Court will use:
 - Existing City Court budget resources.
 - Proceeds of a DOJ Grant \$197,235 10/21 – 9/25.
 - Cost sharing among participating cities & towns.
 - Size and scope of the program will be managed to remain within budget.



Conclusion

- With the consensus of Council, the Glendale City Court team will proceed with the implementation of a West Valley Regional Veterans Court with a projected commencement of operations on January 2, 2023.
- The Court will engage all West Valley Municipal Courts and enter into IGAs providing for participation and cost sharing.



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Questions?

Glendale City Court
Nicholas C. DiPiazza
Presiding Judge