

**Motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Metro Executive Management Committee
October 17, 2013**

Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise

Military service to our country is an honorable act. American men and women risk their lives to protect and defend the nation, undertaking sacrifices in service to our country. Those who suffer disabilities as a consequence of their military service frequently pay a heavy price and often face many barriers to gainful employment and economic opportunities upon their return to civilian life. According the United States Department of Labor, in August 2012, about 3.0 million veterans, or 14 percent of the total, had a service-connected disability.

Metro has been very proactive in reaching out to the veteran community, from attending veterans' job fairs all over Los Angeles County to hosting a veterans' job fair. Metro's Construction Careers Policy and Project Labor Agreement explicitly recognize veterans by incorporating them in its definition of "disadvantaged worker" and "helmets to hardhats" categories. However, Metro needs to acknowledge and address the entrepreneurial initiative of disadvantaged veterans in the contracting and procurement process.

I, therefore, move, that the Chief Executive Officer:

Develop a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) contracting and procurement program incorporating the following:

1. A mandatory contract goal for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises for the Board to consider after surveying other jurisdictions including, but not limited to, the Metropolitan Water District, the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Los Angeles Community College District;

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2. Utilization of the State of California's Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise certification process for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Certification Eligibility Requirements;
3. Providing preference to DVBE's whose principal office is located within the County of Los Angeles to the extent allowable by State and Federal laws.

Report back to the January 2014 Executive Management Committee.