

RESOLUTION 2025- 3

**ACKNOWLEDGING AND EXERCISING THE COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY TO SELECT AND MAINTAIN ADEQUATE OFFICE FACILITIES UNDER THE MILITARY VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT, 330 ILCS 45/1 ET SEQ.**

**WHEREAS**, the Veterans Assistance Commission of Sangamon County (the "VAC" or "Commission") is a duly organized Veterans Assistance Commission under the Illinois Military Veterans Assistance Act, 330 ILCS 45/1 et seq. (the "Act"), and is charged with providing just and necessary assistance and services to eligible veterans within Sangamon County, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act grants the VAC certain powers and responsibilities to provide just and necessary assistance and services to eligible military veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 45/10(d) of the Act provides that "[t]he designated superintendent of the [VAC], under the direction of the Commission, shall have charge of and maintain an office in the county building or a central location within the county, to be used by the Commission for providing the just, necessary, and needed services mandated by law"; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 45/10(e) of the Act further requires that "[t]he county shall provide for the funding of the office and provide all necessary furnishings, supplies and services as passed by the County Board in its annual appropriation. . ."; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 45/10(a) of the Act also provides that "[t]he executive powers of the Commission [are] vested in the [the] superintendent"; and

**WHEREAS**, the VAC operates in compliance with federal and state laws governing the confidentiality and security of personal and health information, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (45 CFR Parts 160, 162, and 164), the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (740 ILCS 110/1 et seq.), and the Illinois Medical Patient Rights Act (410 ILCS 50/0.01 et seq.), which protect the confidentiality of medical and personal records; and

**WHEREAS**, the office space currently occupied by the VAC at 901 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, Illinois, does not provide sufficient privacy to effectively provide just and necessary assistance and services to eligible military veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the office space currently occupied by the VAC does not have sufficient space to accommodate the staff currently employed by the VAC; and

**WHEREAS**, the office space currently occupied by the VAC does not have sufficient space to accommodate the staff that will foreseeably be employed by the VAC in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the office space currently occupied by the VAC limits Superintendent from conducting necessary supervision to VAC staff without interference to just and necessary services to veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the office space currently occupied by the VAC only has one enclosed area in which VAC staff can meet with veterans who require assistance and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the office space currently occupied by the VAC restricts the employees of the VAC to only meeting with one veteran at a time or, in the alternative, requires the employees of the VAC to violate professional and ethical responsibilities regarding the confidentiality and privacy of the veterans they assist; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission, in consultation with the Superintendent, has determined that the office space currently occupied by the VAC is inappropriate and inadequate to provide the just, necessary, and needed services mandated by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission, in consultation with the Superintendent, has determined that, at a minimum, appropriate and adequate office space for the VAC and its foreseeable future needs would require 8-10 enclosed offices, a conference room, a break room, a computer lab, a secured file room, and a storage room; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent and Sangamon County (the "County") through its officers, have attempted to work toward a collaborative solution since at least February of 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the County, through its officers, has failed for over 12 months to provide an alternative office space appropriate and adequate to provide the just, necessary, and needed services mandated by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent located a satisfactory and appropriate office space for the VAC's needs located at 3100 Walton Drive, Springfield, Illinois, in or about August 2024 and informed the County of the VAC's intention to enter a lease that the premises; however, the County, through its officers, directed the Superintendent of the VAC in or about October 2024 not to enter into a lease agreement for an appropriate and adequate office; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the County's continuing refusal to comply with its statutory obligations with respect to the VAC, it is necessary to formally acknowledge and exercise the Commission's authority under the Act to establish an office which will permit VAC and its employees to effectively fulfill its mandate; and

**WHEREAS**, the selection of appropriate and adequate office space is essential to facilitating the administration of veterans' benefits and providing the just, necessary, and needed services mandated by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Veterans Assistance Commission of Sangamon County that the foregoing findings and conclusions are hereby accepted as true and correct and, further:

1. **Authority Acknowledged:** The Commission hereby acknowledges its statutory authority under the Military Veterans Assistance Act, 330 ILCS 45/1 et seq., to select and maintain an office adequate to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

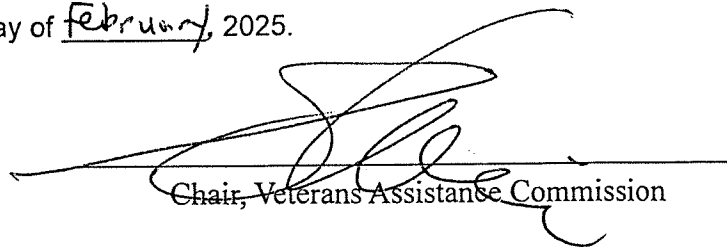
2. **Office Selection:** The Commission shall exercise its authority to select the appropriate office location(s) based on considerations of accessibility, operational efficiency, and service delivery to veterans.
3. **Implementation:** The Commission hereby authorizes its Superintendent to take all necessary steps to exercise the Commission's authority to select and maintain adequate office space in a central location in the county which may include, without limitation, entering into lease agreements and coordinating with the County to fund such office space.
4. **Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and shall remain in force unless modified or rescinded by a subsequent resolution of the Commission.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 25 day of February, 2025.

ATTEST:



Secretary

  
Chair, Veterans Assistance Commission