



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 5, 2008

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINE REGIMENT, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS – CAMP PENDLETON

DATE: JULY 11, 2008

FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

PRESENTATION BY: THOMAS R. HATCH, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
CAROL C. PROCTOR, MANAGEMENT ANALYST

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol C. Proctor, Management Analyst at
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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the City of Costa Mesa formally support the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps by adoption of Resolution 08-__ (Attachment 1).
2. That City staff assist the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment Support Group to provide support to the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment and their families through the Support Group's own fundraising efforts by disseminating information to and encouraging support by the community, promoting programs and other planned activities, and coordinating use of City facilities for events.

BACKGROUND:

City Manager's Department staff was approached by three 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment local veterans, Fred Arnold, Jim Kaylor and Pat Wallace. They explained that they would like the City of Costa Mesa to support the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment (Battalion) stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. The request has already been sanctioned by the Battalion and Camp Pendleton (Attachment 2).

Mr. Arnold, Mr. Kaylor and Mr. Wallace have proposed a "1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment" Support Group (Support Group), including a Board of Directors (Board). They would serve on this Board. Should the City support the Battalion, the number of Board members would increase to include a cross-section of both public and private sector individuals in Costa Mesa. The Support Group would be comprised of those members of the community who wish to volunteer with the support and fundraising activities. Also, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Kaylor and Mr. Wallace have been in contact with the Costa Mesa Community Foundation as a third partner in the support efforts.

The purpose of the Board, as noted on Attachment 3, is to plan and administer fundraising activities in order to generate funds that will be used for care and support of the Battalion, families, and dependants, particularly if the troop is deployed. The City's role would be to obtain program and event information from the Board, garner community-wide support for

the activities, assist with securing City facilities for certain events, and periodically attend Board meetings. The City would not provide direct financial assistance, although an unknown level of staff time would be needed to support this effort.

The City did officially adopt D Company, 2-25 Aviation Regiment, (Task Force Diamond Head, Hawaii) of the US Army in September of 2006. That troop returned to the United States late last year. Based on communications with the commanding officer of D Company, active support is no longer necessary.

The 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment, known as “The Fighting Fifth,” is comprised of approximately 1,000 men and women stationed at Camp Pendleton.

ANALYSIS:

Based on staff research of similar efforts in other communities, sponsorship, support or adoption of a military unit, military families or battalions has been a common action by many communities. A positive and rewarding opportunity is created when a community supports a unit because of the morale and assistance it brings in a time of need. Responses from other cities and experience show that residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, service clubs, scout troops, faith-based organizations, veterans and veteran groups make the choice to become involved and support US service men and women abroad and/or their families while they are away. Civic pride and renewed patriotism is also cited. This outpouring of support provided by a community through various events and activities brings funds for the troops and their families, evokes good will and means so much to the men and women of the regiment.

Should the City Council decide to support the Battalion, the following level of support is suggested:

- City would disseminate information from the Support Group Board of Directors in various ways to promote and support the Battalion.
- City would create a link on the City website to describe the Battalion and the purpose of the partnership with this troop, and to communicate upcoming fundraising events and assistance as planned by the Support Group Board of Directors. Links on the “1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment” program at other local websites, such as the Costa Mesa Community Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Costa Mesa Conference & Visitor Bureau, and/or Mesa Consolidated Water District would also be considered.
- City will provide, whenever possible, the use of City facilities (parks, meeting rooms) for fundraising efforts, with fees waived.
- City staff will periodically attend Support Group Board of Directors meetings.
- City will encourage goodwill, pride in the military, and interaction with the Battalion through an annual civic support effort, in conjunction with the Support Group and Board. This may be simply a community get-together, at which time some of the troop and color guard would be presented to the City at one of the City parks.
- Staff from the City Manager’s Office will serve as liaison(s) as needed at community events and programs.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

1. Do not formally support a military unit.
2. Participate in some other form of support organization.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The fiscal impact to the City of this program would be determined by the level of effort required to support the activities approved by City Council. Until the scope of the program is fully defined, the fiscal impact cannot accurately be determined.

Expenditures related to the program as proposed would primarily involve staff support to coordinate with the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment Support Group Board of Directors on documents to be distributed and facilities for fund-raising events, disseminate information to the community, groups and organizations, coordinate the reservation of City facilities for fundraising efforts, and periodically attending meetings. While very preliminary at this time, it is estimated that approximately 2 hours of staff time per week may be needed. Staffing would come primarily from the City Manager's Office. Also, while staff would electronically disseminate information as much as possible, additional costs may be incurred for printing informational materials and postage.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The attached Resolution has been approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office.

CONCLUSION:

City Council should determine whether to formally support the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment and proceed with assistance to the Support Group Board of Directors as noted in the report.

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DISTRIBUTION: Legislative & Public Affairs Manager
Finance Director
Administrative Services Director

- ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Resolution 08-](#)
2 [USMC Correspondence Re: Community Adoptions of 1st Marine Division Units, dated November 15, 2007](#)
3 [Costa Mesa 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment Support Group Info](#)