

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-4715

COUNCIL SPONSOR: DEAN/BRISTER

PROVIDED BY: LEGAL DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO HOME RULE CHARTER, SECTIONS 1-04, 3-01 AND 3-09, FOR ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT, TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM AND/OR OTHER RELATED SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the Parish has experienced a steady and alarming spike in suicides. To reduce the incidents of suicide and ensure better safety for all, Volunteers of America ("VOA") seeks to develop an effective working partnership between the first responders and the mental health system; and

WHEREAS, the VOA has been "touching lives, building community" since the 1890s and works in innovative ways to help people with mental illnesses and emotional disturbances function as well as possible and enjoy a high quality of life. VOA, recognizing the increase of mental health issues in St. Tammany Parish, seeks to provide a Crisis Response Program to optimize the collaboration between first responders and the mental health system to improve the care of persons in crisis. Crisis Response Counselor(s) would be on call 24/7 to assess and intervene in reports of mental crises coming through the 911 system; and

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish has enacted a Public Health Tax. Funding several initiatives under suicide prevention falls squarely with the Public Health Tax Proposition. In order to address the lack of mental health resources for suicide risk in the Parish, the St. Tammany Parish Public Health Tax will be used to fund the VOA Crisis Response Program. The Crisis Response Program will provide a stronger collaboration of skilled mental health professionals and first responders working together to better serve our community. Therefore, the Parish seeks to provide funding to VOA for providing early and assertive intervention services to reduce the number of suicides and suicide attempts; and

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that St. Tammany Parish Government, through the Office of the Parish President, pursuant to Home Rule Charter, Sections 1-04, 3-01 and 3-09, is hereby authorized to enter into and execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, which meet or exceeds all of the requirements of Louisiana law and jurisprudence, with Volunteers of America (VOA) for funding support for VOA's Crisis Response Program and/or other related services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all acts previously taken by the Office of the Parish President in furtherance of the actions or agreements contemplated herein are hereby ratified and approved.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 1 DAY OF DECEMBER , 2016,  
AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING  
PRESENT AND VOTING.

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MARTY DEAN, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK

### **Resolution Administrative Comment**

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St. Tammany Parish Government is seeking to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement in order to provide calendar year 2017 funding for Volunteers of America's crisis response program and related services. Funding source is the public health millage, and funding for 2017 is \$125,000.00.