

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-3102

COUNCIL SPONSOR: GOULD/DAVIS

PROVIDED BY: PRESIDENT/LEGAL

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE ST. TAMMANY PARISH THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND/OR EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY AND VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA.

WHEREAS, the Parish has experienced a steady and alarming spike in suicides over the past six (6) years. To reduce the incidents of suicide and ensure better safety for all, the Parish seeks to develop an effective working partnership between the first responders and the mental health system; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteers of America, Greater New Orleans (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 mental health systems to improve the care of persons with severe mental illness who are in crisis. The Crisis Response Team would consist of mental health professionals who would be on call to assess and intervene in suicide reports coming in 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 the Volunteers of America for providing early and assertive intervention services to reduce the number of suicides and suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, The Parish proposes to provide funding in the amount of six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$ 650,000.00) for a period of twelve (12) months to VOA to fund the implementation of the VOA Crisis Response Program; and

WHEREAS, this Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is authorized pursuant to Article VII Section 14 (C) of the Louisiana State Constitution which authorizes governmental entities to enter into cooperative endeavor agreements.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that the Parish President is hereby authorized to sign and/or execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. Tammany Parish and Volunteers of America (VOA) in furtherance of the objectives stated above; and

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.

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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 5 DAY OF May, 2011, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

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MARTIN W. GOULD, JR., COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK