

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO 65 -2021

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2 OF ORDINANCE 73-2014 TO EXTEND TO MEMBERS OF THE ACTIVE MILITARY, RESERVES AND NATIONAL GUARD THE DISCOUNTS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MUSEUMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDED TO VETERANS.

WHEREAS, Nassau County has a history of acknowledging services provided on behalf of County residents, including providing discounts to groups such as volunteer firefighters, voluntary ambulance corps., police auxiliary units, and veterans for various Department of Parks, Recreations and Museums' activities and services; and

WHEREAS, our active Military, Reserves and National Guard serve and defend our Country with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County acknowledges the service of our active Military, Reserves and National Guard in defending our Country and keeping our residents safe; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this ordinance, the term "Military" shall refer to individuals in the "active military service of the United States" as defined in subdivision 8 of section 1 of the New York State Military Law; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this ordinance, the term "Reserves" shall refer to individuals serving in "reserve armed forces" as that term is defined in subdivision 29 of section 292 of the New York Executive Law and includes the United States Army Reserve, the United States Naval Reserve, the United States Marine Corps Reserve, the United States Air Force Reserve, and the United States Coast Guard Reserve; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this ordinance, the term "National Guard" shall refer to individuals serving in the "force of the organized militia" as defined in subdivision nine of section one of the New York State Military Law, meaning "the army national guard, the air national guard, the New York naval militia, the New York guard when organized, and such additional forces as may be created by the governor" under section two of the Military Law; and

WHEREAS, it would be appropriate to provide our Active Military, Reserves and National Guard discounts to Department of Parks, Recreations and Museums activities and services that are offered to veterans; now, therefore

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau as follows:

Section 1. Section 2 of Ordinance 73-2014, as last amended by Ordinance No. 21-2018, is amended to read as follows:

§2. Discounts.

a. Nassau County residents who are age 60 and older (hereinafter, senior citizens), volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance corp., members of police auxiliary units, persons with disabilities, and veterans shall be entitled to discounts for certain of the Department of Parks, Recreations and Museums' programs, services and activities and a discount on Nassau County Leisure Passport. For the purposes of this ordinance, "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released for reasons other than dishonorable. A copy of veteran's discharge paper or proof of membership in a veterans' organization, including, but not limited to, the Vietnam Veterans of America, America Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jewish War Veterans, and Korean War Veterans, shall be sufficient evidence of a person's status as a veteran for purposes of this ordinance. For purposes of this ordinance, any volunteer firefighter, member of a volunteer ambulance corp., and member of a police auxiliary unit who retires in good standing after 20 years of volunteer service in Nassau County, shall be entitled to any discount offered pursuant to ordinance to active volunteer firefighters, members of a volunteer ambulance corp., and members of a police auxiliary unit. "Good standing" is demonstrated by submitting a letter signed by the highest-ranking member of the location where the retiree was assigned to the Department stating that the retiree honorably served as a volunteer firefighter, member of a volunteer ambulance corp., or member of a police auxiliary unit for twenty years, and voluntarily separated from the organization in good standing. The Department shall publish a form letter on the official Nassau County website.

b. Any discount that is made available under this Ordinance to veterans shall also be made available to members of the Military, the National Guard and the Reserves, provided that to the extent that this Ordinance specifically provides a different discount from veterans for individuals who “are active military personnel,” that discount shall apply to all individuals who are in active military service of the United States or on active duty with the National Guard. To receive these discounts, all members of the Military, the National Guard and the Reserves must present their Common Access Card issued to them pursuant to part 157 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

§2. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this ordinance, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

§3. It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that the adoption of this Ordinance is a “Type II” Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(20), and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

§4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

