

March 3, 2026**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

Page 1 of 2

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CITY SUPPORT FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

This report provides an overview of activities related to the City's support of veteran-owned small businesses and their participation in City contracting opportunities.

Background

On August 5, 2025, City Council adopted an ordinance establishing a small business program for procurement of goods, services, and construction. A Small Business Development Program division was created in the Economic Development Department, which includes a veterans business development component. This division has a dedicated staff member who provides veteran business outreach and offers one-on-one consultations to help veterans start, develop, and grow their businesses. The Small Business division of Economic Development works closely with the Purchasing division in Financial Management Services to assist small businesses in accessing City contracting opportunities.

Veteran-Owned Businesses and City Contracting

Under the Small Business Development Program, the City has a 30% small business goal for procurement, which encompasses veteran-owned small businesses. The City's procurement management software, Bonfire, allows business owners to self-identify as a veteran-owned business. Of the over 14,000 registered vendors on Bonfire, there are currently 352 businesses that identify as veteran owned, or about 2.5% of registered vendors. City staff will continue to encourage veteran-owned businesses to self-identify on Bonfire and will continue to provide information to those who may qualify under the Veteran Heroes United in Business (VetHUB) program.

Changes to the State of Texas HUB Program

On December 2, 2025, Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced that the state's Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) program had been restructured under emergency rules and is now operating as Veteran Heroes United in Business (VetHUB). This program focuses exclusively on small businesses owned and operated by veterans with a service-connected disability of 20% or greater. Since the City recognizes HUB-certified vendors as eligible for a 5% bid preference on contracts between \$3,000 and \$100,000, businesses certified under VetHUB will also qualify for the City's 5% bid preference.

Current Efforts to Support Veteran-Owned Businesses

The Economic Development Department, through its Small Business Development Program, is actively working to expand programs that support veteran-owned businesses. Through these efforts, the City will host Boots to Business Reboot (B2BR) at the Business Assistance Center in

March 3, 2026**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

Page 2 of 2

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CITY SUPPORT FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

partnership with the Small Business Administration and the UT Arlington Veterans Business Outreach Center, a hands-on, introductory program for veterans interested in business and entrepreneurship. These sessions allow veterans to learn the fundamentals of business and entrepreneurship, gain practical skills and guidance tailored for veterans, and network with fellow veterans and local business experts. Active links to register for the following sessions are available:

- [Monday, May 4 | 8 AM – 5 PM](#)
- [Monday, November 2 | 8 AM – 5 PM](#)

City staff will continue to work on scheduling more programming and will continue to update and include veteran business resources on the division webpage: [Veterans Business Support & Resources – Welcome to the City of Fort Worth](#). Economic Development staff will continue to work with the Purchasing team to explore other ways to assist veteran-owned small businesses.

For further questions, please contact Ori Fernandez, Assistant Economic Development Director, at 817-392-2606 or Ori.Fernandez@fortworthtexas.gov or Haven Wynne at 817-392-8525 or Haven.Wynne@fortworthtexas.gov.

Jesus “Jay” Chapa
City Manager