

Agenda Report

November 25, 2013

TO: City Council

THROUGH: Legislative Policy Committee (November 20, 2013)

FROM: City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Adopting the 2nd Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution adopting the 2nd Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment.

BACKGROUND:

Since the late 1960s the non-profit organization Americans Supporting Americans (ASA) has been pairing towns and cities together with U.S. military units in order to support the men and women of the U.S. armed forces.

By coordinating with both civic and community groups, ASA facilitates "adoptions" between towns and cities and individual military units throughout the country. The organization works with all branches of the armed forces, including the National Guard, establishing adoptions between communities and units already interested in forming a partnership and between communities and units that have no previous connection with each other. In some cases, a city is already "home" to a particular unit, and the municipality and unit may want to solidify this relationship. In other cases, a city or town wants to establish a strong, supportive connection with soldiers, sailors, airmen, or Marines in a unit not already affiliated with the community involved.

Recently, a local coordinating committee was formed for the purpose of adopting the 2nd Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment. The members of the committee include:

- Bill Papanian: Former Pasadena Mayor. Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps.

- Ann Erdman: Former Public Information Officer for the City of Pasadena and who's late father was a U.S. Navy Officer and Ship's Captain;
- Bill Thomson: Former Pasadena Mayor, currently serving as a Trustee of Pasadena City College. Veteran, U.S. Army;
- Harry Kurdoghlian: Captain, Pasadena Fire Department, Vice-President Pasadena Firefighters Local 809. Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps;
- Anita Brenner, Esq: member of the Armed Forces Committee, Los Angeles County Bar Association;
- Leonard Torres, Esq.: Board member of the Marines' Memorial Association, military service includes First Force Reconnaissance Company Vietnam 1966-1967 and Commanding Officer, Marine Security Detachment USS Galveston, CLG-3;

The 2/23, as it is commonly referred to, is a reserve infantry battalion whose mission is to provide trained combat personnel and units to augment and reinforce the active component in time of war, national emergency, and at other times as national security requires. The battalion will participate in a large-scale training and readiness exercise in the summer of 2014 after which it will assume a "ready battalion" posture for Marine Forces Reserve. This posture could require the unit to deploy on short notice. During such deployments, the moral support of local community members is highly positive and has a tremendous impact on the overall morale of personnel while they are overseas.

The 2/23 has its headquarters in Pasadena and despite participation in many local civic events, has not been formally adopted by the City of Pasadena. Although it is a reserve infantry unit, it is also staffed by active duty Marines that form an Inspector-Instructor cell. These active Marines live and work in the local area on a full-time basis, interacting with members of the community regularly. Several members from the reserve component are also activated on short-term orders, and they work throughout the year in Pasadena. Although 2/23's primary focus is on preparing to deploy in support of the nation's needs, the unit's personnel frequently participate in many local Community Relations events. These include providing color guards and static displays, supporting Military Funeral Honors, and participating in the Toys for Tots program during the holiday period. Additionally, 2/23 provides support to the annual Tournament of Roses Parade. These Marines view Pasadena as a home, and consider themselves the "Pasadena Marines."

Adoption of the 2/23 does not obligate the City of Pasadena in anyway, however, it is expected that the proposed action will promote a closer relationship between the City, its residents and the local Marine unit. The benefits of such a relationship would be manifold. For the City, disaster planning and emergency preparedness efforts would be augmented by the resources available through the 2/23. To this end there have already

been preliminary discussions between the City's public safety departments i.e., Police and Fire and the current Commanding Officer of the Inspector-Instructor staff, Lt. Colonel Wright. There is also an opportunity to facilitate and strengthen the ties between members of the community and local members of the United States Armed Forces. Finally, there is the opportunity to strengthen the ties between the community and its veterans who live and work in the area. As the coordination committee and 2/23 leadership work together to find more ways to facilitate positive interaction among the city, its "Pasadena Marines," and its veterans, it will demonstrate to all members of the community that Pasadena has a rich history of recognizing and supporting its residents who serve or who have served. This will be a large source of pride for an overwhelming number of community members.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

Building a stronger relationship between the City of Pasadena and the 2nd Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment, further the City Council's Strategic Plan Goals of promoting quality of life and ensuring public safety in the wake of a natural or man-made disaster.

FISCAL IMPACT:

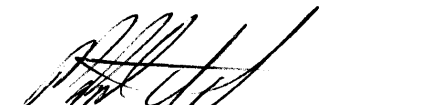
The adoption of the proposed resolution would not result in any fiscal impact on the City.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Mermell
Assistant City Manager

Approved by:



Michael J. Beck
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA
ADOPTING THE 2ND BATTALION 23RD MARINE REGIMENT**

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the Adopt-A-Unit program created by Americans Supporting Americans provides a mechanism whereby all branches of the United States Armed Services can be "adopted" by American communities, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this adoption program is to create a bond between American communities and the military men and women who bravely serve their country, and

WHEREAS, the city of Pasadena is home to the 2ND Battalion 23RD Marine Regiment which has participated in many civic events over the years, and

WHEREAS, the City of Pasadena desires to recognize and strengthen this relationship for the benefit of the community and members of the 2ND Battalion 23RD Marine Regiment.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA HEREBY
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

To adopt the 2ND Battalion 23RD Marine Regiment.

Passed and Adopted by the City Council of the City of Pasadena on the

____ day of _____, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:


NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Brad L. Fuller
Assistant City Attorney