REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2016

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: LOUIS CELAYA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER 1

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 16-1809 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN

AMERICA SUPPORTING AMERICANS ADOPT-A-UNIT PROGRAM

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Denis Weber, the City has received an invitation to consider participation in the America Supporting Americans (ASA) — Adopt-A-Unit Program. The program entails adoption of a unit from the U.S. Armed Services Branch for the purpose of forming a partnership between communities and units that have no previous connection with each other. In some cases, an adopted city may already be a "home" to a particular unit, and the municipality and unit may want to solidify this relationship. In other cases, a city or town may want to establish a strong, supportive connection with military personnel in a unit not already affiliated with the community. Both these scenarios result in rewarding, successful adoptions that are beneficial to both parties involved, particularly the military service men and women of the military unit adopted.

An example of activities that can occur between an ASA Adopted Unit and a municipality can include visitations by the adopted unit to the community upon their return home, and possible participation in a variety of community events and activities (i.e., parades, schools presentations, etc). When units are deployed abroad, activities include letters and care package campaigns from adoptive cities to boost morale and help them feel connected to home.

Currently, several northern and southern California cities are participating in the Adopt-A-Unit Program. They are listed below:

North California Cities	Southern California Cities
Burlingame	Laguna Nigel
Foster City	San Clemente
Millbrae	Santee
Belmont (pending)	
San Bruno (pending)	
State of Oregon (Cities)	
Hillsboro	

Staff discussions with the representative from the ASA indentify that they are not soliciting or anticipating funding or staff resources to participate in the program. All activities related to supporting the program will be done via the ASA's Greater Conejo Valley Chapter, a citizen group, who organizes the letter and care package campaigns. It should be noted that while staff resources are not anticipated by the ASA, there is a potential for some staff resource use with an event that could be conducted by the City (i.e., coordination efforts for participation in a parade, etc.), and possible communication between the ASA liaison and City staff.

ASA advised that they have been active with the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce, whereby the Chamber has provided complimentary membership to the ASA, and assists them with occasional advertising of events to Chamber members through their website and social media outlets. The Chamber does <u>not</u> participate in organizing or coordinating ASA events and is not a position to take on this role. ASA has advised the City that the unit identified for adoption is "Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division".

Participation in the ASA Adopt-A-Unit Program requires the adoption of a Resolution acknowledging the City's support of the designated unit, and designating a point of contact/liaison between the community and the unit. The resolution also requires the completion and submittal of the Adoption Agreement Form for Cities to accompany the resolution, which identifies primary and secondary contacts.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is seeking direction on this request. Should the City Council elect to participate, staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 16-1809, authorizing participation in America Supporting Americans (ASA) - Adopt-A-Unit Program, and execute the Adoption Agreement Form for Cities.

Attachment: ASA Consideration Letter Resolution No. 16-1809

ASA: Adoption Agreement Form for Cities



AMERICA SUPPORTING AMERICANS (ASA)

WWW.ASA-USA.ORG
APRIL 22, 2015

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Councilman Denis Weber City of Agoura Hills

Dear Councilman Weber:

America Supporting Americans (ASA) is a nonprofit organization which mission is to building caring, supportive connections between our brave military service members and American communities. Reflecting back to 2003 your great City of Agoura Hills had adopted one of our units which was based in Germany. Unfortunately we had lost contact with that unit after their Change of Command. Over the years, many communities have found ASA sponsored adoptions to be exceptionally rewarding, not only for the members of the adopted units, but also for the residents of the adoptive communities themselves. We presently represent many units with the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

While the primary people running a given community's adoption activities are generally city residents and not city employees, ASA does ask those in authority in the city itself make a commitment to the program on behalf of the community. This is why we ask that the mayor or comparable city official ultimately sign the Adoption Resolution, thus a citizens committee may be assigned to lead it. ASA does guide our cities through this simple support process. Many of our leaders all volunteers are willing to share with other cities supportive activities by their citizens.

Should your fine City of Agoura be interested in reinstating support with ASA program rest assured we advises and guides our "adopted cities" through our troop support process. ASA has supported troops & their families since Vietnam, Desert Storm and September II, 2001. We see the impact it has made on the well-being of thousands of troops and the 100's of communities who have engaged with ASA.

I wish to point out that ASA office is in Westlake Village and have an opportunity to make a formal presentation to your City. Jill Lederer of the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce has offered ASA membership. We have several community leaders supporting ASA and encouraging their community businesses, schools and civic leaders to join our troop support campaign here in Conejo Valley. Additionally your Agoura Hills Football team had supported one of our units under our "Foster a unit" program. I know our troops are anxious to hear the outcome of partnering their units with our California cities. We hope Agoura will give our request serious consideration on their behalf. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Patterson, President & Founder
AMERICA SUPPORTING AMERICANS (ASA) Adopt a unit

RESOLUTION NO. 16-1809

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICA SUPPORTING AMERICANS (ASA) ADOPT-A-UNIT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, American military forces are either engaged in defending or are prepared to defend and support American interests and principles, and

WHEREAS, the Adopt-a-Unit program created by America Supporting Americans on March 4, 1968 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, this bond is intended to support the morale of said service men and women without regard to individual political ties or affiliations, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the challenges confronting American service men and service women, it is appropriate and fitting that the City of Agoura Hills show its support by adopting the following unit:

"Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division"

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS CALIFORNIA, HEREBY DETERMINES, FINDS, AND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Section 1</u>. The City of Agoura Hills, in the State of California, does hereby adopt and offer its ongoing respect and support, in time of war and in time of peace, to the following unit:

"Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division."

<u>Section 2</u>. The City Council hereby designates Mr. Jim Sumner as the official, primary liaison between this community, the newly adopted unit, and *America Supporting Americans*, as the organization which has facilitated this adoption. All contact information for this individual is included in the Adoption Agreement Form accompanying this Adoption Resolution as Exhibit A. The Mayor is authorized to execute the Adoption Agreement Form on behalf of the City.

<u>Section 3</u>. The City of Agoura Hills hereby encourages all City employees, businesses, service clubs, charitable organizations, and private citizens to become involved in supporting this adoption.

PASSED, following vote to		AND ADOP	TED this 10 th (day of Februar	y, 2016, by	the
AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:						
			Harry Schwa	arz, Mayor		
ATTEST:						
Kimberly M. Rodr City Clerk	igues, MMC					



AMERICA SUPPORTING AMERICANS: ADOPTION AGREEMENT FORM FOR CITIES

Congratulations on your community's decision to adopt a unit through the ASA program! We are delighted you have chosen to join the ASA adoptive family. Of course, we believe you could not have found a more wonderful way to support the men and women of our armed services, and we expect you will find it just as rewarding to your community as it will be to the members of the unit, ship, or squadron you have adopted.

In order to finalize this process, we ask that you fill out, sign, and return this form, together with your community's Adoption Resolution, to ASA's office in California:

Linda Patterson America Supporting Americans P.O. Box 574 Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

If you have any questions, please direct them to Linda Patterson at (310) 459-5625. Linda's email address is artavia101@earthlink.net. Thank you!

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It is hereby	agreed that (o	ity/state): City of Agoura Hills is adopting the following, through the AMERICA
support this people must	s unit. We have t be a city emp	Adopt-a-Unit Program. It is further agreed that our community will regularly engage in activities designed to chosen a primary and secondary contact person for this program. We understand that at least one of these loyee who can receive information, mailings, phone calls, and email through city hall, or a comparable official our community.
The primar	y contact pers	on in our community for this program will be:
	Name:	Jim Sumner
	Address:	368 Larch Crest Court
		City: Thousand Oaks State: CA Zip:
	Phone:	805-376-2112 Email: jimsumner368@gmail.com
		erson is a city employee whose contact information, as listed above, corresponds to an strative office for our municipal government.
Our second	lary contact pe Name:	rson will be:
	Address:	30001 Ladyface Court
		City: Agoura Hills State: CA Zip: 91301
	Phone:	818-597-7314 Email: 1celaya@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us
		erson is a city employee whose contact information, as listed above, corresponds to an strative office for our municipal government.
The name(s) of our local i	newspaper(s) is (are) Acorn Newspapers
The name(s	s) of our local i	adio stations(s) is (are) <u>N/A</u>
Update For communitie will, if poss	ms which will b is on the ASA v ible, include th	ntact with ASA, providing ASA with any changes in the above information, and returning to ASA the Adoption is sent to us by ASA on a semi-annual basis. ASA may include the name of our community in the list of adoptive rebsite. In promoting or publicizing this adoption or adoption related activities, through whatever media, we see fact that we adopted this unit through AMERICA SUPPORTING AMERICANS. We also agree that at least one of the adoption will always be a city employee who can be reached as described in the printed paragraph above.
Signed:		Printed name: Harry Schwarz
		nparable civic official)
Date:	2/10/16	Accepted:
		FOR AMERICA SUPPORTING AMERICANS