



March 18, 2022

The Honorable Mayor Robert "Bobby" Dyer & Members of City Council
2401 Courthouse Drive – City Hall
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Subject: Endorsement of Department of Defense SkillBridge/Hire Vets Now Fellowship Program,
Virginia Department of Veterans Services/City of Virginia Beach

Dear Mayor Dyer and Members of City Council,

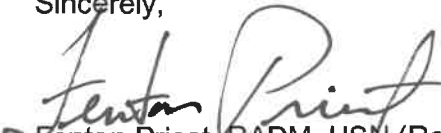
The Virginia Beach Military Economic Development Advisory Committee (MEDAC) supports the Department of Defense (DoD) SkillBridge program operating as the HIRE VETS NOW Fellowship Program (HVNFP) in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Each year approximately 15,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces, stationed in Hampton Roads will leave active duty and re-enter the civilian work force. Through HVNFP, the City of Virginia Beach benefits from gaining early access to the extensive experience, skills, and unmatched work ethos service members bring to the workforce.

The City of Virginia Beach has a significant opportunity in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Veteran Services to craft a HVNFP to meet specific workforce needs, matching those needs to the skills and abilities of highly motivated service members, all at no cost. Fellowship training opportunities are created for 6 to 24 weeks and service members continue to receive their full military pay and benefits. Additionally, the establishment of HVNFP in the City of Virginia Beach supports "Blueprint Virginia 2025, A Business Plan for the Commonwealth" to build an action plan for strengthening Virginia's economic competitiveness. A key pillar of the plan is to invest in a well-trained talent supply pipeline. HVNFP creates a natural recruiting pipeline of diverse military talent to help Virginia Beach companies grow, thrive, and prosper.

MEDAC is confident the close collaboration with Virginia Beach Economic Development, City Council, and our military/business community to facilitate HVNFP will strengthen economic and workforce development in the City of Virginia Beach and throughout Hampton Roads for years to come.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Fenton Priest, RADM, USN (Ret)
MEDAC Chair

Copies: MEDAC Members
Patrick A. Duhaney, City Manager
Taylor V. Adams, Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic Development