

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, the people of Carrboro respect, admire, and appreciate the individuals who selflessly have served the United States of America in the Armed Forces by placing themselves in challenging or perilous situations for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those individuals who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and ways of life that we enjoy in our local communities; and

WHEREAS, Operation Green Light is a nationwide initiative to support veterans and raise awareness about the challenges many veterans face in accessing benefits and services;

WHEREAS, approximately 70 percent of veterans experiencing homelessness also experience substance use disorders, and 50 percent live with mental illnesses such as posttraumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually, and an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44 to 72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life, and active service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our communities in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, community organizations, and civil service, and as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability, and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro seeks to join other communities through Operation Green Light for Veterans to shine a light on the plight of veterans across the country who are having a hard time connecting with benefits after serving their country; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carrboro Town Council declares the period from November 7 through Veterans Day, November 11, 2022, to be a time to honor the service and sacrifice of individuals in uniform transitioning from active service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in observance of Operation Green Light, the Town of Carrboro shall display green lights on Carrboro Town Hall, and the Town Council encourages residents to participate by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence from November 7 through November 11.

This the 18th day of October, 2022.