



CITY OF KIRKLAND

City Manager's Office

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001

www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Marie Stake, Communications Program Manager

Date: August 1, 2012

Subject: Statement of Support for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

RECOMMENDATION:

Council authorizes the Mayor to present the Statement of Support prepared by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

ESGR is a Department of Defense organization. It is a staff group within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. The focus of ESGR is to:

- promote understanding of Guard and Reserve service;
- enlist support of employers in development of human resource policies and practices that support and encourage employee participation in Guard and Reserve programs;
- provide information to improve knowledge of, and voluntary compliance with, the Uniform Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act among Reserve leaders, members, and their employers;
- Sustain willingness of employers to support their employees called to military service for the Global War on Terrorism over potentially longer periods of time and greater frequency.

Bob DeWald, State Chair, Washington Committee, requested that the City of Kirkland, Kirkland Police Department and Kirkland Fire Department sign the Statement of Support prepared by ESGR to recognize the essential duty of Guard and Reserve personnel. Mr. DeWald will be present to receive the statements.

Information about ESGR can be found at <http://www.esgr.mil/site/>.



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GUARD AND RESERVE



City of Kirkland

We recognize the Guard and Reserve are essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities.

In the highest American tradition, the patriotic men and women of the Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession. They train to respond to their community and their country in time of need. They deserve the support of every segment of our society.

If these volunteer forces are to continue to serve our nation, increased public understanding is required of the essential role of the Guard and Reserve in preserving our national security.

Therefore, we join other employers in pledging that:

- We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- We appreciate the values, leadership and unique skills service members bring to the workforce and will encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists, and Veterans.
- We will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crisis, and in war.

Employer

James G. Rebholz
National Chair, ESGR

Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense

August 7, 2012

Date

