



# Allegheny County Council

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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 9975-17, **Version:** 1

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Title...

Proclamation recognizing Life-Changing Service Dogs for Veterans for providing certified service dogs to local veterans suffering from PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) and/or TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury).

Body...

***WHEREAS, Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans*** was established by Pittsburgh native, Vietnam Veteran and owner of Veterans Cable Services, Tony Accamando, in order to fund the extensive training regimen required of service dogs, and to pair (free of charge) those dogs with local veterans suffering from physical disabilities or cognitive challenges resulting from traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and/or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); and

***WHEREAS***, service dogs can perform tasks, improve mobility and provide unconditional love and companionship, helping veterans return to lives of greater independence and fulfillment; and

***WHEREAS***, service dogs can mean the difference between life and death for a veteran suffering with PTSD; and

***WHEREAS, Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans*** hopes to acquire 22 service dogs over a period of 22 months, through a partnership with Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, at a cost of approximately \$500,000. The number 22 is significant because according to the Veterans Administration, an average of 22 veterans commit suicide every day; and

***WHEREAS***, through the generosity of donors, supporters and its annual “Mutt Strut” fundraiser, ***Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans*** has made a significant impact on this bold endeavor;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that Allegheny County Council does hereby recognize and honor the devoted work of ***Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans*** and its supporters for helping the men and women who so bravely served our country lead more independent lives by providing them with service dogs.