

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ORDINANCE NO. A-25

June 17, 2013

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE CITY OF NEWTON AS FOLLOWS:

That the Revised Ordinances of Newton, Massachusetts, 2012, as amended, be and are hereby further amended with respect to Chapter 27 TAXATION:

I. Insert a new **Article III Veterans Volunteer Program** as follows:

**ARTICLE III.  
VETERANS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

**Sec. 27-31. Establishment; rate; maximum annual reduction.**

A person who qualifies pursuant to the provisions of this article may volunteer to provide services to the city in accordance with the standards and requirements set forth herein. In exchange for such volunteer services, the city shall reduce the real property tax obligation of such person on tax bills for his principal residence and any reduction so provided shall be in addition to any exemption or abatement for which such person shall be otherwise qualified. Each such volunteer shall receive a rate of or be credited with the current minimum wage of the commonwealth. The maximum reduction of the real property tax bill shall be based on one hundred twenty-five (125) volunteer service hours.

**Sec. 27-32. Eligibility**

(a) A veteran, as defined in clause Forty-third of section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, whose principal place of residence is in Newton may be eligible to receive the reduction set forth in section 27-31. The date of determination as to veteran status, residence, ownership and income shall be July first of each year.

(b) Eligibility as a veteran shall be determined by the city veterans' agent. In order to ascertain an applicant's veteran status, said agent may request verification by any means including the submission of certified military records.

**Sec. 27-33. Volunteer positions.**

The head of each city department shall and the chair of each city board or commission may, on or before the 45<sup>th</sup> day following the passage of this article and from

time-to-time thereafter, furnish to the veterans' agent, on a form provided by said agent, a list of volunteer positions available in each department, board or commission respectively. Said list shall include a description of the nature of each position, a list of skills such position requires, when the position will be available, the total hours for the position and such other information as the veterans' agent may require. Persons may volunteer pursuant to section 27-31 by filling out the application form furnished by said agent.

**Sec. 27-34. Employment eligibility.**

The veterans' agent shall establish employment-eligibility criteria and may require reviews of criminal offender record information as he deems necessary. Acceptance of a veteran into this program shall be subject to the approval of both the veterans' agent or his designee, and that of the appropriate department head or board or commission chair.

**Sec. 27-35. Certification of services; abatements.**

(a) The department, board or commission supervising the volunteer's services shall certify to the assessors the amount of services performed by the volunteer as of the time the actual tax for the fiscal year is committed. Services performed after that date and before the next commitment date shall be credited toward the next fiscal year's tax bill. The department, board or commission shall provide a copy of such certification to the volunteer.

(b) The assessors shall process all reductions as abatements and charge them against the overlay account. The veterans' agent and the director of senior services acting pursuant to Article II of this chapter shall not approve a number of veteran and/or senior volunteers whose total possible reductions combined would exceed \$100,000 in any fiscal year.

**Sec. 27-36. Employment benefits prohibited.**

Volunteers approved pursuant to this article shall not receive any health insurance, retirement benefits or any other employment-related benefits as a result of performing such volunteer services. Nothing herein shall create any rights to said volunteers other than those already created by state law.

**Sec. 27-37. Approved representative**

A qualifying veteran who is physically unable to provide volunteer services to the city may appoint a representative to provide such services to the city on his behalf. Such representative shall be subject to approval by the veterans' agent and shall be subject to all non-financial employment eligibility criteria of sec. 27-34 and to the limitations of sec. 27-36 as well as to such other criteria as may be deemed necessary by the veterans' agent or the assessors.

AND

II. Amend **ARTICLE II SENIOR CITIZEN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM** as follows:

1. Delete the last sentence of **Section 27-20 Establishment; rate; maximum annual reduction.** and insert in its place the following language:

“The maximum reduction of the real property tax bill shall be based on one hundred twenty-five volunteer service hours in any given tax year.”

2. Delete the last sentence of paragraph (b) in Section 27-24 **Certification of Services; Abatements.** and insert in its place the following language:

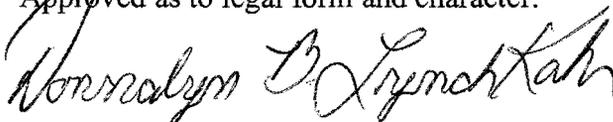
“The director of senior services and the veterans’ agent acting pursuant to Article III of this chapter shall not approve a number of veteran and/or senior volunteers whose total possible reductions combined would exceed \$100,000 in any fiscal year.

3. Add the following new section after Sec. 27-25:

“Sec. 27-26.

An approved representative may provide such volunteer services to the city on behalf of a qualifying person who is physically unable to provide such services. Such approved representative shall be subject to all non-financial employment eligibility criteria and limitations as provided in Sec. 27-23 and Sec. 27-25 and to such other criteria as may be deemed necessary by the director of senior services.

Approved as to legal form and character:



DONNALYN B. LYNCH KAHN  
City Solicitor

Under Suspension of Rules  
Readings Waived and Adopted  
22 yeas 0 nays 1 absent (Alderman Lappin) 1 vacancy



(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON  
City Clerk



(SGD) SETTI D. WARREN  
Mayor

Date 6/25/13