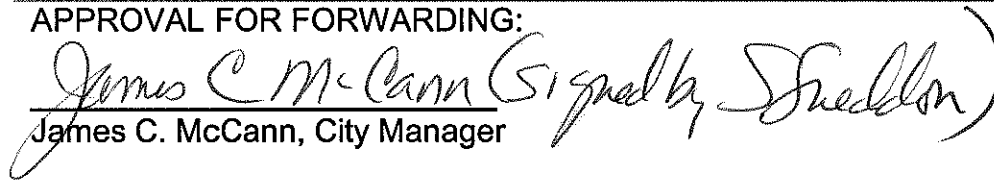


## City of Calistoga Staff Report

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Susan Sneddon, City Clerk  
**DATE:** February 16, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** Authorization for the Mayor to sign a letter of support for a residential treatment program that's housed at the California Veterans' Home of Yountville.

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**APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:**

  
 James C. McCann, City Manager

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1 **ISSUE:** Authorization for the Mayor to sign a letter of support for a residential treatment  
 2 program that's housed at the California Veterans' Home of Yountville.

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 4 **RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the letter of support

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 6 **BACKGROUND:** On February 8, 2010 Town of Yountville Vice Mayor John Dunbar  
 7 asked the City to consider sending a letter of support to Congressman Mike Thompson  
 8 requesting federal funding for the continued operation of the residential treatment  
 9 program at the California Veterans' Home of Yountville.

10  
 11  
 12 **DISCUSSION:** Beginning in January 2008 the Veterans Home in Yountville has been  
 13 operating "The Pathway Home," a treatment and counseling program to assist veterans  
 14 returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The facility is housed in Madison Hall, a former  
 15 long-term care building on the Yountville Home's 500-acre campus. This program was  
 16 made possible by a major private grant in the amount of \$5.6 million. The Pathway  
 17 Home program is managed as an independent program on the Veterans Home's  
 18 grounds as a project of Tides Center in San Francisco, with oversight by the California  
 19 Department of Veterans Affairs. Since the beginning of its operation the program has  
 20 been providing comprehensive treatment and support to over 150 young veterans so

21 that they can continue to recover from the stressors of war or combat or other traumatic  
22 military-related issues, and have a balanced reentry into post-active duty life. There are  
23 on average 38 veterans in the program at one time, and the average length of stay is  
24 four months; family members can be accommodated for a brief stay to help support the  
25 veteran's treatment. The program provides a therapeutic environment for veterans to  
26 regain physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual strength.

27  
28 Fred Gusman, the Executive Director of the Pathway Home, reported that Napa County  
29 and other local community organizations have been supportive of this program for the  
30 past two years. He stated that he foresees a great need for the continued operation of  
31 the Pathway Home because many veterans will be returning home as the presence of  
32 the military in Iraq is decreased.

33  
34 Staff recommends that City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter of  
35 support to the Pathway Home program at the California Veterans' Home of Yountville.

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37 **FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

38  
39 **ATTACHMENTS:**

40  
41 1. Draft letter of support

1 February 16, 2010

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3  
4  
5 Honorable Congressman Mike Thompson  
6 U.S. Representative - 1<sup>st</sup> District  
7 231 Cannon House Office Building  
8 Washington, DC 20515  
9

10 Re: California Veterans Home of Yountville -The Pathway Home Program

11  
12 Dear Congressman Mike Thompson:

13  
14 On behalf of the City of Calistoga, I would like to request that you communicate to Congress the  
15 importance of supporting the continued operation of the Pathway Home residential treatment  
16 program located at the California Veterans' Home of Yountville.  
17

18 As you are aware, this non-profit organization provides mental health treatment and assistance  
19 to veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to better aid them in their adjustment  
20 to civilian life. Many have witnessed the outcome of those that have graduated from this  
21 program, and have heard firsthand the crucial role this treatment and the positive affect it has  
22 had on their lives. The program has made it possible for these veterans to begin coping with the  
23 traumas of war and to prepare for life back with their families and in their communities.  
24

25 Over the past two year since this program has begun there have been many organizations and  
26 citizens that have provided their support for this program. As you are aware, the generous \$5.6  
27 million private grant received for this program will run out soon. It would be a real misfortune if  
28 this type of care facility were to fail because of the lack of funding or support by the federal  
29 government.  
30

31 Please help in finding a way to help the Pathway Home program to continue to care for those  
32 who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.  
33

34 Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

35  
36 Sincerely,

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39  
40 Jack Gingles, Mayor  
41 City of Calistoga