

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

12-0639R

REPLACEMENT

RESOLUTION REGARDING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING
AND THE IMPACT OF PENTAGON SPENDING.

BY COUNCILOR GARDNER:

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Minnesota state government shut down over disputes as to how to address a \$5 billion two-year budget shortfall; and

WHEREAS, many small towns, cities and rural communities throughout the state are managing austerity budgets, laying off police, firefighters, and teachers and cutting essential services in response to cuts in state aid and/or federal cuts to community development block grants; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout the state have suffered from a regressive property tax system due in part to state and federal cuts; and

WHEREAS, Duluth tax payers have contributed \$450 million and counting towards the Irag and Afghanistan wars alone; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these costly wars, Minnesota tax payers are spending more than \$16 billion in 2012 for their share of the base Pentagon budget, a budget that increased from \$290.5 billion to \$526 billion between 2000 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 \$.59 of every dollar of federal discretionary spending is funding military purposes; and

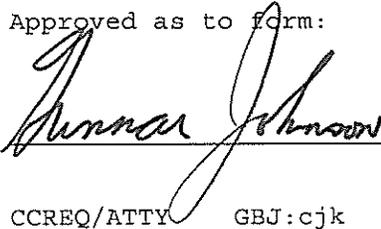
WHEREAS, on a local level the 148th Fighter Wing is an example of a military unit doing more with less, and serves as a model of prudent military spending; and

WHEREAS, the budget for veterans is separate from the military budget and the nation has a responsibility to provide veterans with quality medical care and other support, including opportunities for meaningful jobs; and

WHEREAS, although the council highly values the service of our military, our nation needs to better balance its approach to national security to include the economic, social, and environmental needs of our local communities, state and nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Duluth city council hereby requests that our state and federal representatives make an effort to shift federal funding priorities from pentagon spending to domestic economic, social and environmental priorities to better serve local communities.

Approved as to form:



CCREQ/ATTY GBJ:cjk 12/10/2012

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution requests state and federal representatives make an effort to shift funding priorities from pentagon spending to domestic economic, social and environmental priorities.