

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

■ 2. Add § 165.T08–0718 to read as follows:

§ 165.T08–0718 Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Lafitte, LA.

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: All navigable waters of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, from mile markers (MMs) 11 to 12 west of the Harvey Locks, Lafitte, LA.

(b) *Effective period.* This section is effective from 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. on September 7, 2019.

(c) *Enforcement periods.* This section will be enforced during the effective period. However, breaks in the racing may occur during the enforcement periods, which will allow for vessels to pass through the safety zone. The Captain of the Port Sector New Orleans (COTP) or a designated representative will provide notice of breaks as appropriate under paragraph (e) of this section.

(d) *Regulations.* (1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23, entry into this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the COTP or designated representative. A designated representative is a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the U.S. Coast Guard assigned to units under the operational control of USCG Sector New Orleans. They may be contacted on VHF–FM Channel 16 or 67 or by telephone at (504) 365–2200. A designated representative may be a Patrol Commander (PATCOM). The PATCOM may be aboard either a Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel. The Patrol Commander may be contacted on Channel 16 VHF–FM (156.8 MHz) by the call sign “PATCOM”.

(2) All persons and vessels not registered with the sponsor as participants or official patrol vessels are considered spectators. The “official patrol vessels” consist of any Coast Guard, state, or local law enforcement and sponsor provided vessels assigned or approved by the COTP or a designated representative to patrol the regulated area.

(3) Spectator vessels desiring to transit the regulated area may do so only with prior approval of the Patrol Commander and when so directed by that officer will be operated at a minimum safe navigation speed in a

manner which will not endanger participants in the regulated area or any other vessels.

(4) No spectator vessel shall anchor, block, loiter, or impede the through transit of participants or official patrol vessels in the regulated area during the effective dates and times, unless cleared for entry by or through an official patrol vessel.

(5) Any spectator vessel may anchor outside the regulated area, but may not anchor in, block, or loiter in a navigable channel. Spectator vessels may be moored to a waterfront facility within the regulated area in such a way that they shall not interfere with the progress of the event. Such mooring must be complete at least 30 minutes prior to the establishment of the regulated area and remain moored through the duration of the event.

(6) The COTP or a designated representative may forbid and control the movement of all vessels in the regulated area. When hailed or signaled by an official patrol vessel, a vessel shall come to an immediate stop and comply with the directions given. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the area, citation for failure to comply, or both.

(7) The COTP or a designated representative may terminate the event or the operation of any vessel at any time it is deemed necessary for the protection of life or property.

(8) The COTP or a designated representative will terminate enforcement of the special local regulations at the conclusion of the event.

(e) *Informational broadcasts.* The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the effective period for the safety zone as well as any changes in the dates and times of enforcement through Local Notice to Mariners (LNMs), Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNMs), and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) as appropriate.

Dated: August 22, 2019.

K.M. Luttrell,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector New Orleans.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 165**

[Docket No. USCG–2019–0610]

Recurring Safety Zone; Wheeling Heritage Port Sternwheel Festival, Wheeling, WV

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of enforcement of regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will enforce the safety zone for the Wheeling Heritage Port Sternwheel Festival Fireworks, to provide for the safety of persons, vessels, and the marine environment on the navigable waters of the Ohio River during this event. Our regulations for marine events within the Eighth Coast Guard District identifies the regulated area for this event in Wheeling, WV. During the enforcement periods, entry into this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh or a designated representative.

DATES: The regulations in 33 CFR 165.801, Table 1, Line 77 will be enforced from 10:15 p.m. through 11 p.m. on September 14, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this notice of enforcement, call or email Petty Officer Trevor VanNatta, Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 412–221–0807, email Trevor.J.VanNatta@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard will enforce a safety zone for the Wheeling Heritage Port Sternwheel Festival in 33 CFR 165.801, Table 1, Line 77 from 10 p.m. through 11 p.m. on September 14, 2019. This action is being taken to provide for the safety of persons, vessels, and the marine environment on navigable waters of the Ohio River during this event. Our regulation for marine events within the Eighth Coast Guard District, § 165.801, specifies the location of the safety zone for the Wheeling Heritage Port Sternwheel Festival, which covers a one-half mile stretch of the Ohio River. Entry into the safety zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh (COTP) or a designated representative. Persons or vessels desiring to enter the safety zone must request permission from the COTP or a designated representative. They can be reached on VHF FM channel 16. If permission is

granted, all persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the COTP or designated representative.

In addition to this notice of enforcement in the **Federal Register**, the COTP or a designated representative will inform the public through Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNMs), Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs), Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs), and/or through other means of public notice as appropriate at least 24 hours in advance of enforcement.

A.W. Demo,

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 62

RIN 2900-AQ40

Rental and Utility Assistance for Certain Low-Income Veteran Families

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulations that govern the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program. This final rule will enable grantees to augment available housing options for homeless veterans in high rent burden communities by increasing the rental assistance for up to two years before recertification. Conditions in some local housing markets such as low vacancy rates and higher costs have made it increasingly difficult to recruit landlords and help homeless veteran families find and sustain permanent housing. Providing enhanced rental assistance in these communities is necessary to help VA progress in its goal to end veteran homelessness.

DATES: This final rule is effective September 27, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Kuhn, Homeless Program Office, Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Office, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington DC 20420 (202) 632-8596. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a document published in the **Federal Register** on May 17, 2019, VA published a proposed rule, which proposed to revise its regulations that govern the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, which is

authorized under section 2044 of title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.). 84 FR 22407. VA provided a 30-day comment period, which ended on June 17, 2019. We received 9 comments on the proposed rule.

Section 2044 requires the Secretary to provide financial assistance to eligible entities, approved under this section, to provide and coordinate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families occupying permanent housing. VA implements the SSVF Program under the regulations in title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 62.

Through the SSVF Program, VA awards supportive services grants to private non-profit organizations or consumer cooperatives to provide and coordinate the provision of supportive services to very low-income veteran families who are occupying permanent housing. Pursuant to 38 CFR 62.11, there are three situations in which a very low-income veteran family is considered to be occupying permanent housing. The first possibility is if a family is residing in permanent housing at the risk of becoming homeless but for the grantee's assistance. The second possible situation is if a family is lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; is at risk of remaining in that state if they do not receive grantee assistance; and is scheduled to become a resident of permanent housing within 90 days pending the location or development of housing suitable for permanent housing. Finally, if a family is lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence after exiting permanent housing within the previous 90 days to seek other housing that is responsive to their needs and preferences, that very low-income family is considered to be occupying permanent housing.

This rulemaking extends the ability of SSVF grantees to provide rental assistance in areas where the limited availability of affordable housing makes it difficult to reduce a community's population of homeless veterans. Through the provision of these subsidies, the pool of available housing can be expanded as program participants have access to a broader rental market.

One commenter was in favor of the proposed rule stating that by allowing for shallow, flat subsidies linked to fair market residential rental rates, families served by rapid rehousing programs will be able to further stabilize in housing and, ultimately, achieve greater self-sufficiency. The commenter added that the communities in which these families reside will benefit from the

residual socio-economic value of a reduced demand for emergency services, improved physical and mental well-being for participating households, greater neighborhood stability, and similarly improved educational outcomes for affected youth. As such, the proposed rule will not only fulfill our moral imperative to our fellow citizens, but will pay for itself as a result of reduced demand on local community systems. Another commenter stated that this was a great rule. We make no changes based on these comments.

Another commenter was also in support of the proposed rule stating that this is a highly valuable program, to the extent that it provides additional, and longer, housing assistance, especially for low income veterans and their families in high cost areas. The commenter stated that there are numerous instances in the San Francisco Bay Area of veterans needing housing assistance, because the San Francisco Bay Area, with its limited land space, and hi-tech industries, has some of the highest housing costs in the country. The commenter added that the result is that low income veterans will have difficulty finding and maintaining payments for housing. VA agrees that the proposed changes provide additional and longer housing assistance for low income veterans and their families in high cost areas, such as the San Francisco Bay Area. We are not making any changes based on this comment.

Another commenter supportive of the proposed rule stated that by giving veterans rental assistance, we are allowing them more breathing room in terms of becoming financially stable. The commenter added that VA should also provide veterans with extra money every month so that they can purchase food and pay for utilities. The commenter also stated that if the government cannot come up with this extra money for food allowance, then the government must at least provide them with discounts when veterans go grocery shopping. VA agrees that it is important for some veterans to receive assistance to pay for food and utilities. Under § 62.34 grantees may provide services that are necessary for maintaining independent living in permanent housing and housing stability. Such services include rental and utility assistance. For ongoing support, SSVF works with participants to get mainstream benefits assistance, for example linking participants to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps, to address food needs. In emergent situations, SSVF grantees can