

LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

1816 S. FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015



Ruth A. Wong
Director

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Present:

Commissioners

Thomas O'Shaughnessy
Patricia Jackson-Kelley
Fred Flores
Marcel Rodarte
Tom Lasser
Joe Leal

County Department

Military and Veterans Affairs

Ruth Wong, Director
Tatiana Rosas, Executive Secretary

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Minutes

Chair Thomas O'Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 1:35p.m with no quorum. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Marcel Rodarte. Chair O'Shaughnessy stated that due to a lack of quorum the Minutes of March 14, 2018 is postponed.

Roll Call

As noted above.

Chairman's Report

Chair O'Shaughnessy stated that he would hold off on reporting on Tenant Committee Chair report. The Chair stated that a growing number of foreign-born recruits who joined the United States military through a special program created to recruit immigrant troops with valuable language and medical skills are being terminated before they can qualify for citizenship. Known as the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest or Mavni, the program, created during the George W. Bush administration, allows legal, nonpermanent resident immigrants to join the military and get fast track citizenship. More than 10,000 troops have joined the military through the program — almost all of them in the Army. The proposal to dismantle the program would cancel enlistment contracts for many of the foreign-born recruits, leaving about 1,000 of them without legal protection from deportation.

With a quorum, there was a motion to approve Minutes by Commissioner Rodarte and seconded by Commissioner Leal. Commissioner Fred Flores requested that the Minutes reflect the correction that Commissioner Bond was absent and was not able to "Motion to approve Minutes for March 14th." He also requested that the March Minutes be corrected and to verify his attendance for the March meeting. The Minutes were approved unanimously by those present with stated revisions. Chair O'Shaughnessy introduced Fourth District Deputy Lynda Johnson who is seated in the audience. Board Deputy Lynda Johnson stated she is attending meeting throughout her District regarding homeless veterans and has recently attending an event at Villages of Cabrillo.

**Veterans Advisory Commission Meeting
Minutes of July 11, 2018
Page 2**

Chair O'Shaughnessy stated he would hold off on reviewing the proposed Ordinance changes until the August Retreat.

Election of Officers

Item is being held until Commissioner Hector Elizalde is present.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report

Ruth Wong, Director, stated the following Department updates:

Introduced new Public Information Officer Kathleen Piche, she has 19 years of County service, and is an LCSW. Department Assessment:

- Benefit Claims went up 10% and it is expected to exceed 10,000 claims. Increased outreach to veterans.
- Expanded services in the Antelope Valley.
- Expanded audible claims; submitted over 500 claims and 11,000 audible claims.
- Partnered with other County Departments.
- Expanded the Veterans Culinary Program.
- The Department migrating to Windows 10.

Public Comments: Comments from Audience on Items Not on Agenda (three minutes each):

Richard Jellerson, StoryTeller Films, regarding a documentary film, "A Solemn Promise – An American Missing in Action" will be shown at Patriotic Hall at a future date.

Item's for Next Month's Agenda (September Agenda)

Gold Star Manor – Glen Patrick

Follow-Up on Veteran Issues

None.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Joe Leal shared his ordeal at Fort Irwin at a gas station, an 83-year-old woman in an electric wheelchair had her legs crushed by a car who left the scene after hitting her. He also stated that the body of a disabled deceased female veteran was found in front of the Pomona Shelter. Commissioner Leal thanked Commissioners Lasser and Jackson-Kelley for attending and supporting Congresswoman's event.

Commissioner Fred Flores had nothing for the Good of the Order.

Commissioner Marcel Rodarte apologized for not being able to support the Pomona event.

Commissioner Tom Lasser stated that he attended the US Coast Guards Military Changes in Command Ceremony. Will also attend the August 7th and 8th Governor's Military Council meeting.

Commissioner Patricia Jackson-Kelley stated she attended the Azusa event and several other events.

Chair Thomas O'Shaughnessy stated that he will going to Oakland on Friday and attending two major political parties. Motion to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Lasser and seconded by Commissioner Rodarte. Meeting adjourned at 2:32p.m.

Tatiana Rosas
Executive Secretary
July 11, 2018