

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

1816 S. FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015



**Jim Zenner
Director**

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

Present:

Commissioners

Chi Szeto
Alfonso Noyola
Hugh Crooks
Rocio Palmero
Patricia Jackson-Kelley
Jawana McFadden
Anthony Allman
Dennis Anderson

Absent:

Commissioners

John Gutierrez

County Department

Military and Veterans Affairs

Jim Zenner, Director
Stephanie Guerrero, Executive Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Szeto at 1:31 p.m.

Director Announcement

New policy implementation: Salute Armed Forces Everyday (SAFE) Program requested by the Vietnam Veteran Community and previous Commission Chair. The SAFE program is where all active-duty service members and Veterans will be asked to stand up and be recognized at all public events where the flag is saluted. The announcer will make the statement "We honor those who make it possible for us to be here today" before the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, or the singing of the national anthem.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Alfonso Noyola, 4th District.

Roll Call

Eight (8) Commissioners were at the meeting during roll call; a quorum was present. Commissioner Anderson attended the meeting virtually. Commissioner Gutierrez was absent from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Vice Chair Noyola to accept the Minutes for November 15, 2023, and seconded by Commissioner McFadden. After a roll call was conducted with unanimous votes, the motion passed.

Chairman's Report

Chair Szeto stated that the notice of the Commission meeting was sent out last week, via GovDelivery from MVA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov. To subscribe, please send an email to info@mva.lacounty.gov.

MVA's YouTube channel has grown with a total of 70 subscribers. Although the meetings are recorded, the goal is to reach 100, and hopefully, that goal will be reached next year.

Mr. Szeto announced that all communication will be sent through the County email and the training will be rescheduled in February 2024. Last, the Chair expressed gratitude to those who made his job easier with their assistance and support.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report

Director Jim Zenner acknowledged this day in history, in 1989, the start of "Operation Just Cause" where the United States invaded Panama to overthrow Noriega and the death of many service members.

An announcement was made of the giveaway of over 1,000 laptops given to veteran families in partnership with ISD.

The National Commander for the American Legion visited and received a tour of the building, some commissioners were in attendance.

VPAN and DMH conducted a toy drive fundraiser basketball game between family members and veterans.

There were updates on the following:

- Veteran Services - current VA claim activity
- Explanation of the "Justice Involved Program" (incarcerated Veterans)
- 1807 Program
- Indigent Burial Program (collaboration with medical examiner)
- Veterans Experiencing Homeless (VEH) Program
- Veterans Peer Access Network (VPAN)
- Administration Budget
- Fundraising
- Human Resources
- Building Services
- Communications (social media presence)
- Legislative

