

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

1816 S. FIGUEROA STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015



Jim Zenner  
Director

## MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, April 16, 2025

### Present:

#### Commissioners

Hugh Crooks  
John Emmons  
Rocio Palmero  
Patricia Jackson-Kelley  
John Gutierrez  
Alfonso Noyola  
John Follmer

### Absent:

#### Commissioners

Jawana McFadden  
Chi Szeto  
Ashley Chavez

County Department  
Military and Veterans Affairs  
Jim Zenner, Director  
Stephanie Guerrero, Executive Secretary

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gutierrez at 1:30 p.m.

### SAFE Acknowledgement & Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner John Follmer, announced the Salute Armed Forces Everyday S.A.F.E. acknowledgment, requesting all active-duty service members and veterans to stand up during the flag salute and proceed to lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call

Seven (7) Commissioners were at the meeting during the roll; a quorum was present.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson-Kelley to accept Minutes for April 16, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Crooks. A roll call was conducted to accept the Minutes and the motion passed with unanimous votes.

## **Chairman's Report**

Chair Gutierrez stated that the notice of meeting was sent out on April 16th via GovDelivery from MVA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov. To subscribe, please visit mva.lacounty.gov and click on the mail icon located at the top right of the webpage.

## **Guest Speaker**

Mr. Anil Arora, LCSW, PhD Candidate, provided a brief presentation on the Moral Injury Survey and 700 Women Survey, on how it relates to woman veterans. The Commissioners asked questions about the survey and a short discussion was held.

## **General Public Comments**

Patrice Springer – Executive Director, Your Image 2020, provides clothing and receives referrals from various organizations

Krystal Rains – from SD3, announced events at West LA Campus and provided flyers

James Ocon – Navy Veteran, commented on West LA VA and his experience there.

Lenora Elbert – commented on West LA VA voucher status and need for case managers

John Hopper – Air Force Veteran, commented on Anthony Allmans, Let VA be VA, editorial

Shannon Corbet – from SD1, Air Force Veteran, commented on West LA Campus housing project

Chad Garland – Marine Veteran, commented on West LA Campus housing project

## **Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report**

Director Jim Zenner provided the following updates:

- Bob Hope Patriotic Hall was designated a Federal Landmark on April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 100-year centennial takes place February 2026
- Through Quality and Productivity Commission the military transition program and the mental well-being program have been funded
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Women Veterans summit June 14<sup>th</sup>

Public Comment on Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report:

James Ocon – Navy Veteran, commented on DMVA level of proactivity serving veterans.

### **Future Agenda Items**

1.	Department of Veterans Affairs	West LA VA Housing development	Noyola
2.	Department of Veterans Affairs	CTRS	McFadden
3.	TBD	ADA Clinic opening in Fall	Chavez
4.	Department of Veterans Affairs	West LA VA Farm (garden)	Emmons
5.	Community Development Agency	Tenant vs Project based housing	Emmons

### **Commissioner Announcements**

Commissioner Palmero – Thanked Supervisor Solis and made comments about the Veteran Expo, the supporters and vendors. Mentioned Supervisor Solis thanked Military and Veterans Affairs, Director, James Zenner and Chief Deputy, Zuleyda Santana.

Chair Gutierrez – May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Veterans Standdown, Antelope Valley from 9am to 2pm. Also 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribute to Veterans and Military Families, Supervisor Barger, May 24<sup>th</sup> Arcadia Park.

Commissioner Follmer – West LA VA, there is a Food Hub, Nonperishable food items, 5 days a week, 10am – 2pm, Building 258, Room 119. Also, the peer center, building 306, M-F 10am 5pm, where you go to meet peers and battle isolation. Also, West LA VA, Bunker-social feeds Veterans on Monday. West LA VA, Earth Day, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Japanese Garden, revitalization. May mental health awareness month, TakeActionLA.

Chair Gutierrez – Mentioned the 700 Veteran Women Survey April 24<sup>th</sup> from 11 – 2:30 at Patriotic Hall. Chair Gutierrez also mentioned Northrop Grumman hiring in Antelope Valley.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Todd Tortorici, Management Analyst  
Administrative Services Division  
April 16, 2025