

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

1816 S. FIGUEROA STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015



**Jim Zenner  
Director**

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

**Present:**

**Commissioners**

Hugh Crooks  
Rocio Palmero  
Patricia Jackson-Kelley  
Jawana McFadden  
Anthony Allman  
John Follmer  
Chi Szeto  
Alfonso Noyola  
John Gutierrez  
Ashley Chavez

**Absent:**

**Commissioners**

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman Allman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**SAFE Acknowledgement & Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair, John Follmer, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, 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**

Nine (9) Commissioners were at the meeting during the roll; a quorum was present. Commissioner McFadden arrived during the approval of the minutes.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair Follmer motioned to accept the Minutes for November 20, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Palmero. A roll call was conducted to accept the Minutes and the motion passed (unanimously).

## **Chairman's Report**

1. Notice of Meeting
  - December 13, 2024 @ 4:33pm
2. Email Subscription
  - Visit: [mva.lacounty.gov](http://mva.lacounty.gov)
  - Scroll down to footer
  - "GET THE LATEST UPDATES"
3. Meetings with County Counsel
4. Public Comment Form Update
  - View form
  - Addition of call in section
  - Addition of written comment section
  - Public comments included in Commission Packet
5. Change of Command
  - SD5 assumes Chair and Vice Chair duties in CY25
6. BHPH Front Door Reopening
7. MVA Today Email Distribution

## **VAC Logo Revision**

Commissioner Crooks motioned to accept the revised logo for November 20, 2024, seconded by Commissioner McFadden. A roll call was conducted to accept the logo revision and the motion passed (unanimously).

## **Public Comment on VAC Logo**

Sheranda Estrada made a public comment regarding the VAC Logo.

## **General Public Comments**

Howard Hernandez, District 1 veteran, made a public comment.

Mark Wellisch, District 3 veteran, is an advocate for Los Angeles' supportive housing needs and serving veterans non-medical needs.

Sheranda Estrada made a public comment.

Justin Garza, District 3 veteran, is the Executive Director and founder of the Warrior Heritage Foundation. He provided an introduction, shared the vision, and invited others to collaborate.

Dan Ortiz, District 1 veteran, provided the following written public comment:

Commissioners, I urge your support on recommendation #9. The campaign for Measure A was full of statements regarding veterans, the County must fund this program. Don't let politicians use us as campaign promises and then cast us aside once they accomplish their mission. When you take action on these recommendations, we need follow up. I'm still waiting to hear back on Recommendation #1, how difficult can it be to allow Veterans free access to County parks? This item has been in limbo for a couple years. Director Zenner, thank you for your report, I enjoy seeing OUR building used.

### **Draft VAC Bylaws Version 3**

Chair Allman explained the relevant updates to version 3 of the draft bylaws.

Commissioner McFadden moved to accept the Bylaws as written. Commissioner Crooks seconded. Commissioner Noyola proposed a counter motion, that the Bylaws be accepted with a modification.

Commission voted on the motion to accept the Bylaws as written.

No public comments regarding the Bylaws discussion.

### **Draft Recommendation 9**

Vice Chair Follmer motions to approve Recommendation 9 as written and Commissioner Noyola seconds. After discussion, Commissioner Szeto motions to accept Recommendation 9 with amendments and Commissioner Crooks seconds. A roll call vote was conducted, and it was approved.

Patricia Buskuehl and Sheranda Estrada provided a public comment on draft recommendation 9.

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

Director Jim Zenner provided general departmental updates and elaborated on its partnership with the Warrior Heritage Foundation.

### **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- |    |                                       |                                  |                      |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | LA County Department of Public Health | Landfills at VA West Los Angeles | Chairman Allman      |
| 2. | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs   | Update on West LA VA Campus      | Commissioner Noyola  |
| 3. | 700 Women Survey                      | Presentation on the survey       | Commissioner Palmero |

Sheranda Estrada made a public comment on agenda item #9.

## **Commissioner Announcements**

Commissioner Crooks commented about reading the county military and veteran's code.

Commissioner McFadden gave a friendly reminder of the upcoming SD2 Townhall on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Allman thanked the commission, director, and staff for their assistance over the past 3 years as it was a pleasure to serve as Commission Chair.

Commissioner Follmer promoted Building 306, stating that every Monday at West LA VA provides continued community support.

Commissioner Szeto and Noyola thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for their leadership.

Commissioner Gutierrez thanked the commission and the Chair and Vice Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Stephanie Guerrero, Executive Secretary  
Executive Office  
December 18, 2024