

LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

1816 S. FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015



Jim Zenner
Director

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Present:

Commissioners

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

Absent:

Commissioners

Chi Szeto
Alfonso Noyola

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

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair, John Follmer, 3rd 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

Eight (8) Commissioners were at the meeting during the roll; a quorum was present. Commissioner Palmero attended the meeting virtually.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Follmer to accept the Minutes for September 18, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Crooks. A roll call was conducted to accept the Minutes and the motion passed with unanimous votes.

Chairman's Report

Chair Allman stated that the notice of meeting was sent out on October 11th at 2:30 pm via GovDelivery from MVA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov. To subscribe, please visit mva.lacounty.gov and click on the mail icon located on the top right of webpage. He also gave an update on the meeting calendar, upcoming business items, and written public comments.

General Public Comments

Danitza James is a veteran and service provider of a non-profit organization, Repatriate Our Patriots, which helps veterans and families who are at risk of deportation with the naturalization process.

Scott Peterson made comments on a possible creative strategist program.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report

Director Jim Zenner provided the following updates:

- Claim's Clinic on October 22-23 at Magic Johnson Park in District 2
- CALVET Leadership Summit on October 6-9 in San Diego
- One Team integration of DMVA and VPAN
- Provided an overview of DMVA
 - Administrative Services
 - Veteran Services
 - Building Operations
 - Communications and Legislative updates

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

1.	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	OTH VA Healthcare Eligibility	Commissioner Follmer
2.	LA County Child Support Services Department	Veterans Programs	Commissioner Gutierrez
3.	LA County Department of Public Health	Landfills at VA West Los Angeles	Chairman Allman

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Crooks thanked those who went to the CALVET Leadership Summit.

Commissioner Palmero had nothing to add.

Commissioner McFadden highly recommended using the Veterans California Parks pass.

Commissioner Jackson-Kelley attended the “Respect My Crown” and the Open House here at Patriotic Hall.

Chair Allman reminded the commission about “Recommendation 1” which would bring the county in line with the state as far as recreation and park access.

Commissioner John Follmer expresses his appreciation of the importance of the Claims Clinic for fellow veterans in need and the social enterprise with Veteran/VSOs.

Commissioner Gutierrez highlighted past and future events in October and November: CALVET Leadership Summit, SoCal Grantmakers and USC, and Veterans Day Resource Fair.

Commissioner Chavez had nothing to add.

Public Comment

Kyle Orleman brought to the Commission’s attention the possible death of former Commissioner Thom Patrick O’Shaughnessy had passed away but didn’t know for sure and someone may want to look further into it.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Todd Tortorici, Management Analyst
Administrative Services Division
October 16, 2024