

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022  
WINDES INC., 3780 KILROY AIRPORT WAY,  
SUITE 600, LONG BEACH, CA 90806, 5:00 PM**

Ryan Antes, Chair  
Josh Smith, Vice Chair  
Jesse Blanco, Commissioner  
Sylvia Contreras, Commissioner



Juanita Doplemore, Commissioner  
Ricky Fernandez, Commissioner  
Lance Osorio Santiago, Commissioner  
Mike Shakhovich, Commissioner

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**FINISHED AGENDA & DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Blanco called meeting to order at 5:23 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Also in attendance: Adelita Lopez, Joey King, Gus Orozco, Jesse Soria and Gina Overholt.  
Thanks to Chair Blanco for hosting at Windes and providing great food and drink.

**Commissioners** Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky  
**Present:** Fernandez, Lance Osorio Santiago, Mike Shakhovich and Josh  
Smith

**Commissioners** Ryan Antes  
**Excused:**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Gus Orozco invited Commissioners to attend the Montford Point Marine event at the Grand on Saturday, November 19.

22-022VA Recommendation to approve minutes for meeting held on October 12, 2022.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Smith, seconded by  
Commissioner Osorio Santiago, to approve recommendation.  
The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky Fernandez, Lance Osorio Santiago, Mike Shakhovich and Josh Smith

**Excused:** 1 - Ryan Antes

## **COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

G. Overholt updated the Commission on the plans for the Veterans Day Celebration, shared the site plan and signed up volunteers for the Veterans Commission's resource fair booth, set-up and other tasks.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **Presentation on Winter Jobs Fair - Ricky Fernandez**

Commissioner Fernandez shared that there is a major labor gap in the security industry and recruiting Veterans for employment opportunities could help close this gap. He will keep the Commission apprised of an industry-related job fair being planned for the first quarter of 2023.

22-023VA      Recommendation to Discuss Veterans Day Celebration

Commissioner Josh Smith moved to receive and file a report on the Veterans Day Celebration. Commissioner Doplemore seconded.

**This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

### **Presentation on Priorities for Office of Veterans Support - Juanita Doplemore**

Commissioner Doplemore continued the conversation about researching and vetting local Veteran-serving organizations, categorizing these organizations (by strategic plan goals) and then visualizing a plan for expanding our website to include a list of vetted organizations and their respective contact persons. Commissioner Smith returned to the prospect of developing a Veterans banners program (and the possibility of rental fees being reduced or waived).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners shared details with the group about some of the local Veterans Day events planned (besides the big celebration in Houghton Park).

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

After-Action Report/Discussion on Veterans Day event (November 12).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Blanco adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m. The hosted reception followed and included a cake cutting for the Marine Corps' 247th birthday.