

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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019
HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAIN BUILDING
2525 GRAND AVENUE, ROOM 204, 5:00 PM**

Ricky Fernandez, Chair
Ryan Antes, Vice Chair
Sylvia Contreras, Commissioner
Juanita Doplemore, Commissioner
Carlos Gonzalez, Commissioner



Gustavo Orozco, Commissioner
Mike Shakhovich, Commissioner
Josh Smith, Commissioner

FINISHED AGENDA & MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fernandez called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Let the record show that Commissioner Contreras arrived at 5:11 and Commissioner Doplemore at 5:17 p.m.

Commissioners Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Carlos Gonzalez, Gustavo
Present: Orozco, Mike Shakhovich, Josh Smith, Ryan Antes and Ricky
Fernandez

19-021VA Recommendation to approve minutes for the Veterans Affairs
Commission meeting held on May 8, 2019

This VA-Agenda Item was laid over.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public comment.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported on SB 725 (Rubio) Veterans Rental Housing, a proposed bill now in its draft stage. SB 725 will allow the California Department of Veterans Affairs (Cal Vet) to establish a rental housing assistance program. Staff reported on the City's plan to reach hard-to-reach populations, including Veterans, for the 2020 Census. Commissioners were asked to take (and distribute) "Respect and Protect Veterans" lawn signs, part of the City's campaign targeting illegal fireworks

on the 4th of July. Commissioners were reminded that June is PTSD awareness month and the subject of several Facebook group posts. Staff asked the Commission to assist with promoting the Veterans Empowerment Training Session event on June 29 on their social media networks and via email.

19-022VA Recommendation to discuss Veterans Affairs Commission Strategic Plan

Staff continues to move the strategic plan forward. The first meeting to obtain community feedback on draft recommendations took place during the town hall meeting at Century Villages at Cabrillo (CVC) on June 4. There may also be additional opportunities for input at various Veterans Tenant Council meetings that take place at CVC. The Veterans strategic plan will be the focus of the next "Beer & Politics" event on June 26 at Liberation Brewing Company. A community input session will also be part of the Veterans Empowerment Training Session on June 29, which will take place at the American Legion Post 496. Finally, the Veterans strategic plan will be on the agenda of the next VA Town Hall, which takes place on Tuesday, August 27, from 6 to 8. Commissioners were ask to show up and assist at these meetings and to follow-up on their commitments to schedule more meetings. The Commission provided input on 10 draft recommendations, which will be revised accordingly.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

19-023VA Recommendation to discuss Veterans Empowerment Training Session (VETS) on June 29 at the American Legion Post 496

The Commission discussed the details of the event on Saturday, June 29, including refreshments, promotion, RSVPs and confirmed panelists and employers. Commissioners Orozco, Fernandez and Gonzalez confirmed either their attendance or their assistance with set-up on June 28. All Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

19-024VA Recommendation to discuss the Long Beach Point In Time Homeless Count

The Commission briefly reviewed the Point-in-Time count of the homeless population in Long Beach and caught a small but important typographical error in the infographic, which was subsequently revised.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

US VETS Long Beach will be holding its 4th annual "Storm the Beach - 5K/10K Run, Walk and Roll" on Saturday, June 15.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.