

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



Ricky Fernandez, Commissioner
Gustavo Orozco, Commissioner
Mike Shaknovich, Commissioner

FINISHED AGENDA & MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Antes called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Also in attendance: Gina Overholt, Veterans Commission Coordinator, John Oppenheim, Tasha Hunter, Adelita Lopez, Sarah Green, Emilio Contreras, Doug Haubert, Fred Faustino, Rebecca Guillen, Amanda Recio, Jim Dolan, Kelsey Gruen, Brendan Boyes, Liezl Estipona, and Laath Martin.

Commissioners Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky
Present: Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Mike Shaknovich, Josh Smith and
Ryan Antes

FLAG SALUTE

Vice Chair Smitty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rebecca Guillen with CD 9, invited the Commission to the Veterans Day Festival taking place Saturday, November 13, from noon to 4 p.m. Fred Faustino with LBPD Homicide asked the Commission for input and or assistance with expediting the process of identifying homeless Veterans, as it is often a slow and painstaking process because of limited access to databases. John Oppenheim, from City HeART's Veterans' Council, invited the Commission to the City HeART's open house at its new location on Williams Street, on Friday, November 19, from 3 to 6 p.m.

CHECK-IN

Each of the nine Commissioners introduced themselves, identifying the branch of service and years served, and why they joined the Commission.

REGULAR AGENDA

21-009VA Recommendation to approve minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held on October 13, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Doplemore, seconded by Commissioner Fernandez, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Mike Shaknovich, Josh Smith and Ryan Antes

21-010VA Recommendation to receive presentation on African American Military Heroes Exhibit by Tasha W. Hunter, President of African American Cultural Center of Long Beach, and support exhibition.

Tasha Hunter presented on the organization of the African American Military Heroes Exhibit, opening to the public on Veterans Day in the African American Cultural Center's temporary home in the Expo Arts Center in Bixby Knolls. This is the first exhibit of its kind in Long Beach.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

21-011VA Recommendation to receive presentation by Adelita Lopez, Project Manager with Economic Development, and support City of Long Beach Veterans.

Adelita Lopez presented on the City of Long Beach Veterans, a newly formed group of City of Long Beach employees who are Veterans. Discussion followed. Approximately 100 Veteran employees recently completed a survey. Not everyone wishes to identify publicly as a Veteran. City Veteran employees

cited an interest in professional development, mentoring and networking to further their careers at the City as well as improving Veterans' access to City employment opportunities and the hiring pipeline. The group is very interested in collaborating with the Veterans Commission on events, activities, and advocating for Veterans in general. A handful of Veteran employees and Commission members participated in the City Council meeting on November 9 wherein a Veterans Day Resolution was presented. Lopez noted that the City Manager's office will be releasing a report on the City's Veteran recruitment and hiring processes since 2010, when the Veterans' Preference points system in civil service hiring commenced. The group and the Commission will also work together to present the Veterans Strategic Plan to City Council, including a reception in the new year.

A motion was made by Chair Antes, seconded by Commissioner Orozco, to establish an ad hoc committee to work with City of Long Beach Veterans. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Mike Shaknovich, Josh Smith and Ryan Antes

21-012VA Recommendation to support Veterans Day-related events and activities.

Events for Veterans Day were reviewed including the USMC birthday cake cutting following the Commission meeting, the Harvest for Heroes Street Festival on 11/13 from 3 to 10 p.m. on Pine Avenue, the Long Beach Veterans Day Festival on 11/13 from noon to 4, the opening of the African American Military Heroes exhibit at the African American Cultural Center at the Art Expo in Bixby Knolls on 11/11 at 5 p.m.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

REPORT: VETERANS STRATEGIC PLAN

Commission Coordinator Overholt reported that the City Manager's office will be reviewing the plan. Once their edits and suggestions are made, the final graphic design phase of the document will begin, followed by planning for the presentation to Council and a reception. We will know more about the timeline for the presentation in the coming weeks.

REPORT: VETERANS' BANNERS PROGRAM

Commissioner Shaknovich reported for the ad hoc committee. The cost for printing and installing 100 banners, including 65-day use permits is \$14,000. The committee will continue to explore how Veterans will be selected for the banners, whether participants and their families will cover the costs in whole or in part, and identifying sources of funding. The non-profit Long Beach Veterans Day Committee may help with costs and serve as a fiscal receiver.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Shaknovich announced the holiday party at the next meeting on December 8. He will send out a sign-up sheet for refreshments. A gift exchange will also be part of the festivities. Rebecca Guillen announced a Food Distribution for Veterans at Veterans Stadium from 9 to noon on Veterans Day. Commissioner Doplemore announced the South Coast Interfaith Council's Armistice Day march from Valparaiso Plaza to the Lone Sailor Memorial at 10:30 a.m. on Veterans Day.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items for next meeting: City of Long Beach Veterans, Veterans' Banners Program and Veterans' Strategic Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Antes adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.