

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020
HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAIN BUILDING
2525 GRAND AVENUE, ROOM 204, 5:00 PM**

Ricky Fernandez, Chair
Ryan Antes, Vice Chair
Jesse Blanco, Commissioner
Sylvia Contreras, Commissioner
Juanita Doplemore, Commissioner



Carlos Gonzalez, Commissioner
Gustavo Orozco, Commissioner
Mike Shaknovich, Commissioner
Josh Smith, Commissioner

FINISHED AGENDA & MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fernandez called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Carlos Gonzalez
Absent:

INTRODUCTIONS

Guests Dick Fulton, Executive Director, and Elmer Jacobs, President, both from Paralyzed Veterans of America, California Chapter (PVACC), John Oppenheim, Veteran and Veterans' community advocate and volunteer, and Marlen Gudriel, MSC student in the CSULB School of Social Work, introduced themselves to the Commission.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dick Fulton spoke briefly about the mission of Paralyzed Veterans of America.

20-002VA Recommendation to approve minutes for the Veterans Affairs
Commission meeting held on December 11, 2019.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Carlos Gonzalez

REGULAR AGENDA

BREATHING EXERCISE

John Oppenheim led this exercise.

STAFF UPDATES

Commission Coordinator, Gina Overholt, reported on her recent meeting with Pacific Gateway staff. (Pacific Gateway is the workforce development agency for Long Beach, jointly operated by the city and the state's Employment Development Department). Pacific Gateway is interested in partnering with the Commission on the next Veterans Empowerment Training Session. She also attended a Southern California Grantmakers (SCG) meeting wherein she spoke with the lead organizers of a new Los Angeles County Veterans Pier Network. VPN is funded by the county and SCG. Overholt attended the city's first Veteran employees' meeting and reported on its upcoming events and activities. Finally, she reminded Commissioners to file required paperwork (the conflict of interest statement known as Form 700), to provide their bios for the strategic plan, and that the U.S. Census Bureau is now hiring enumerators for the 2020 Census.

20-003VA Recommendation to conduct annual nomination and election of officers.

The nominating and election process took place, resulting in the approval of Ricky Fernandez as Chairman and Ryan Antes as Vice Chairman of the Commission for a second, one-year term.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Antes, seconded by Commissioner Shaknovich, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Jesse Blanco, Juanita Doplemore, Gustavo Orozco, Mike Shaknovich, Josh Smith and Ryan Antes

Abstain: 2 - Sylvia Contreras and Ricky Fernandez

Absent: 1 - Carlos Gonzalez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Oppenheim announced three events taking place at the VA Long Beach: a free orientation program on February 12, the Veterans Social Connection breakfast on January 31 and the Legal Clinic for Veterans on February 11. Social connection breakfasts take place on the last Friday of each month. Legal clinics take place on the second Tuesday of each month. Commissioner Smitty announced that he is participating in a poker run on June 6 to raise funds on behalf of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association for the Fisher House at the Long Beach VA. Guest Marlen Gudriel announced CSULB's 2020 Latina Connection Conference on March 20.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were put forth.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.