

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

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021  
IN-PERSON MEETING LOCATION:  
LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT'S  
GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
2950 REDONDO AVE., CORNER OF SPRING &  
REDONDO, 6:00 PM**

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



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

---

**FINAL AGENDA & MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Orozco, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners** Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Gustavo

**Present:** Orozco and Josh Smith

**Commissioners** Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Mike Shakhovich

**Absent:**

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public present did not address the Commission at this time.

**5. CHECK-IN**

Each of the five Commissioners as well as the others in attendance at the first in-person meeting since March, 2020, John Oppenheim, Gina Overholt, Jim Zenner, Ron Gellis and Anthony Rodriguez, introduced themselves.

6. 21-003VA Recommendation to approve minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held on May 5, 2021.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Gustavo Orozco and Josh Smith

**Excused:** 2 - Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

**Absent:** 1 - Mike Shaknovich

## 7. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Commissioners were reminded that they may be paid for each Commission meeting they attend once they fill out the required paperwork. During the pandemic, the state of California suspended certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow for teleconference meetings. The suspension is in place through September 30, and, unless the time is extended, the Veterans Commission will resume in-person meetings starting with the next meeting to be scheduled in September. The Commission is seeking a new venue for in-person meetings as its former space at the Health Department is not large enough to allow for social distancing.

## REGULAR AGENDA

8. 21-004VA Recommendation to receive presentation from Jim Zenner, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Veteran Peer Access Network. With Ron Gellis, Program Manager for District 4.

Jim Zenner, with the LA County Department of Mental Health, and Ron Gellis, Program Manager for District 4, presented on the County's Veterans Peer Access Network (VPAN). VPAN recently opened its Veterans West Rally Point at the Battleship USS Iowa in San Pedro. A public comment period followed in which guests and the Commissioners asked questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Doplemore, seconded by Commissioner Blanco, to approve recommendation to receive and file the presentation. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 5 - Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Gustavo Orozco and Josh Smith

**Excused:** 2 - Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

**Absent:** 1 - Mike Shaknovich

**PUBLIC COMMENT on 21-004VA**

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The VPAN presenters referred to an event, the Veterans Eat & Greet/Burger Bash, taking place in the Plaza Courtyard at Century Villages at Cabrillo on Thursday, July 15 at 5 p.m. John Oppenheim will email a flyer with the details out to all Commission members.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Veterans Strategic Plan, waylaid by the pandemic, was proposed as a future agenda item.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orozco adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.