

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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022  
TRAINING ROOM, RON ARIAS HEALTH  
EQUITY CENTER, 6335 MYRTLE AVE., LONG  
BEACH, CA 90805, 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 Shaknovich, Commissioner

---

**FINAL AGENDA & MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Antes called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members of the public were also present but had no comment: Adelita Lopez, Jesse Soria and Logan Baughman III.

**Commissioners** Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Josh Smith  
**Present:** and Ryan Antes

**Commissioners** Ricky Fernandez, Lance Osorio Santiago and Mike Shaknovich  
**Excused:**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public comment.

22-008VA Recommendation to approve minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held on May 11.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Josh Smith and Ryan Antes

**Excused:** 3 - Ricky Fernandez, Lance Osorio Santiago and Mike Shakhovich

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

G. Overholt reported on activities over the past 30 days.

22-009VA Recommendation to receive and file presentation from Heroes First.

Logan Baughman III presented on Heroes First, a local, non-profit, Veteran-serving organization. Heroes First obtains lists of service members coming home and then works with Veterans to connect them mental health specialists, help them obtain their VA benefits, and more.

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

22-010VA Recommendation to discuss Office of Veterans Support.

Commissioners reported on their outreach activities since the May meeting. Commissioner Doplemore called attention to the revised spreadsheet listing local Veterans organizations and contact names. Juanita presented on a process for categorizing the list of Veteran-serving agencies by type, ranking the agencies and engaging them in partnerships wherein they support and advocate for the Office of Veterans, by providing a letter of support and attending and speaking at the upcoming Council meeting. Ranking these agencies means vetting them so that Office can refer Veterans to them. G. Overholt invited Commissioners to join the ad hoc Office of Veterans support subcommittee, which will determine the priorities for the Office, what it looks like and how it operates. A subcommittee meeting will be set in the coming weeks.

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

22-011VA Recommendation to Discuss Mission Statement and Goals for Office of Veterans Support

**This VA-Agenda Item was withdrawn.**

## **REPORT ON VETERANS BANNERS PROGRAM**

Commissioner Smith reported on the banner committee's findings, sharing with the group how the City of Bellflower operates its banners program. A Councilmember may champion a pilot banners program within their district with the eventual goal of displaying them within each district. The committee will consider how to verify Veterans status for a banner applicant, a cost or charge for each banner (per Veteran/family), double vs. single sided banner, promoting the banners program and obtaining permits. Banners may be mounted two times a year, around Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The approximate cost per banner is \$300, including hardware, installation and removal.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Doplemore suggested that the City's Office of Sustainability present to the Commission about how it evolved from a Commission to an office.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Event announcements included the Independence Day Dog Parade on July 2, People of the Earth Krew Community Clean Up on June 18, a position with the Sierra Club to engage Veterans in conservation, and US VETS Steps for Vets event on June 11.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Antes adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.