

Andrea Ford, Agency Director

Faith M. Battles, Assistant Agency Director



ALAMEDA COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

General Meeting Agenda

Monday, December 16, 2024

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

In-Person Attendance:

[6955 Foothill Blvd Oakland 94605 \(Eastmont\)](#)

Sobrante Park Conference, Room #143

[\(Directions from parking lot to Conference Room\)](#)

Via Zoom Video Conference Call, use link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99526750740?pwd=YlpiQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

For Dial-in Option, use the number below:

+1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 995 2675 0740 | Passcode: 995735

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99526750740?pwd=YlpiQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

Public participation at Commission meetings is encouraged. Individual public comments per agenda item shall be no more than two minutes.

10:00 – 10:02

CALL TO ORDER:

- Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum
- Review and Approval of November 2024 General Meeting Minutes

10:02 – 10:03

SALUTE COLORS-IN-PLACE

10:03 – 10:04

RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

10:04 – 10:05

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR POW/MIA VETERANS

10:05 – 10:10

PUBLIC COMMENT

10:10 – 10:20

STAFF UPDATE

10:20 – 10:50

Guest Speaker/s:

- Oakland Veterans Center

10:50-11:40

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Outreach (Farmer) [5 min]
- Membership [5 min]
- Budget [5 min]
- Veteran Observance Days (Farmer) [5 min]
- Executive (Farmer) [5 min]
- Nomination Committee (Gilmore) [5 min]
- Stand Down (Farmer) [5 min]
- Women Veterans Day [5 min]
- PAL Legislation [5 min]
- VSO [5 min]

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11:40-11:45 **NEW BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS. [4 min]**
11:45 PM **ADJOURNMENT**
11:45-12 PM **Tour VSO or Veterans Center**

THE COMMISSIONS' PURPOSE

[Article 3 §§ 1 and 2][CA admin code § 2.92.040 - Duties]

The commission **SHALL ADVISE & ASSIST the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** on matters relating to veterans & their families as may pertain to meeting their basic needs for **veterans' benefits, housing, food, shelter, & employment:**

1. Assist in all **VETERANS' OBSERVANCE DAYS** during the year;
[**SUGGESTED** - ¹Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday **May**), ² Memorial Day (Last Monday **May**), ³ Patriot Day (Annually **September 11**), ⁴ Veterans Day (11th **November** Annually).]
2. Promote, develop, & identify the needs of the veterans and their families.
3. Submit recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding programs, plans, goals, policy, & procedures dealing with veteran services.
4. Review annually the status of veterans' benefits.
5. Study, investigate & research veterans' matters in Alameda County so that services to veterans can be coordinated and maximized.

The Commission's purpose & objectives to **ADVISE & ASSIST the Board of Supervisors** are accomplished through:

- Attending and speaking at civic/community activities.
- Membership in Veterans' Organizations.
- Individual contacts within the Community.
- Membership in Civic Organizations.
- Membership in Honor and Color Guard Units.
- Personal Commitment.
- Participation in Eastbay Stand-Downs.
- Lobbying (Any attempt by individuals or private interest groups to influence the decisions of a politician or public official on an issue), etc.

[Reference: Outlined in the 5/24/2021, 7/22/2019, 11/26/2018, and 9/26/2016 Annual Veterans Affairs Commission Report to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors]



Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
General Meeting Minutes
 Monday, November 18, 2024

Alameda County
Social Services Agency
 6955 Foothill Blvd – Ste. 300
 Oakland, CA 94605
<http://alamedasocialservices.org>

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 10:01 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

In Attendance: <i>(P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)</i>	County Staff Present:	
O. Farmer (Chair) = P	D. Boldt = P	Anthony Simpson
R. Forbes = P	R. Cole = P	Jonathan Montero-Flores
S. Dolgin = P	G. Owens = P	Diarra Piggue
M. Gilmore (Vice-Chair) = P	J. Phair = P	Rhoda Turner
N. Harrison = P	K. Warner = A	Sonya Frost = On-line
F. Jaffin = P	D. Williamson = P	
L. Brunner = P	J. McIlvain = P	
I. LoParo = E	S. Yohannes = P	
	A. Gordillo = P	

I. AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
Adopt Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion to accept meeting minutes from 10/21/2024: Motion to approve: Commissioner Owens (M) Commissioner Harrison (S) Motion Passed
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None
Staff Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No official Staff Update. ○ Commissioner Farmer discussed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Ethics for Board and Commission members. Action: Commission Farmer will resend the form to everyone.
Guest Speakers: Chonita Chew, Andrea Mok, and Trevor Jacobson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trevor Jacobson, from Easy Does It, gave a presentation on the free wheelchair rescue program available to Oakland residents, as well as other EDI services such as low-cost wheelchair repair, attendant care, etc. ○ Chonita Chew, from United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County discussed Travel Training (using public transportation). ○ Andrea Mok gave a presentation on Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly and disabled, regarding subsidized transportation

	<p>for Oakland residents – Taxi Scripts, Uber, and wheelchair accessible vans: City of Oakland, and transportation Resources for Seniors and the disabled.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Farmer showed a slide of all the outreach that the ACVAC participated in, which included: Pictures of Operation Green Light. ▪ The Alameda County Veterans Art Exhibit in the Hayward library that is happening now through January 4th. ▪ The Boost Team was highlighted. ▪ Plowshares Mentorship Program. ▪ 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament – Saturday, November 30th at Las Positas Golf Course. ○ Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Farmer explained that there were no new applicants. ▪ He discussed attendance and how important it is to be present. ▪ He expressed that he wanted the Brown Act Training - AB2449 done for the commission, which is the “Just Cause Provision.” Just cause and emergency circumstances include childcare or caregiving need, illness or disability, and travel while on official business. ○ Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Farmer reviewed the budget requests for the FYH 2024-2025 that he submitted but he hasn’t heard whether it was approved. ▪ Diarra Piggue, staff of AAA, explained that the previous staff member who would normally take care of that is no longer with the dept., and nobody knew that they didn’t process the request. Diarra realized the mishap and brought it to the person who took over the position. She informed them the request has not been processed. Diarra stated that they started to look into it and will follow up for a status update. ○ Veteran Observance Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Farmer showed the Veterans Observance Days on the slide and stated that there weren’t many left for the year. ▪ November is National Veterans and Military Families month. ▪ December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. ▪ Castro Valley will have their Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony at the Castro Valley Veterans Memorial. ▪ Contra Costa County will have a Beacon Lighting Ceremony at Mount Diablo on December 7th.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ December 15 – Anniversary of the Official End of War in Iraq. ○ Veterans Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A slide was shown of all the Veteran Day events that the commission participated in. ▪ The BOS presented a Veterans Day Proclamation to the ACVAC that Commissioner Williamson received. ▪ Commissioner Farmer explained that the Veteran’s Day event that was to take place at the Frank H. Ogawa Plaza was cancelled due to rain. ○ Nomination Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion to accept Greg Owens as Chair and Omar Farmer as Vice-Chair <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Motion to approve: Commissioner Gilmore (M) Commissioner Forbes (S)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Motion Passed</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>No one else was nominated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Owens will begin in January 2025. ○ Stand Down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Farmer reviewed last month’s statics of who attended. ▪ Next Stand Down event will be at the same location St. Vincent De Paul in Oakland on December 20 & 21st. ▪ Commissioner Farmer stated that as of right now they have 15 providers but are trying to get 5 to 10 more.
<p>Oral Communication/Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Farmer gave a shout out to Commissioner Boldt ran for San Leandro city council and won.
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.</p>