



Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission

General Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 17th, 2024



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

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 10:00 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

In Attendance: <i>(P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)</i>		County Staff Present:
G. Owens = P	M. Gilmore (Vice-Chair) = P	Jennifer Stephens Pierre
J. Phair = P	N. Harrison = P	Esparanza Contreras
F. Jaffin = O	D. Williamson = P	Jonathan Montero-Flores
I. LoParo = A	K. Warner = P	Sonya Frost
L. Diaz = A	R. Forbes = P	Rhoda Turner
R. Cole = P	D. Boldt = A	
J. McIlvain = A	E. Gilmore = A	
S. Dolgin = P	S. Yohannes = P	

II. AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
Adopt Agenda	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Minutes for March’s 2024 meeting were approved after correction was made to Sub-Committee Report Section D: Which should have read Supervisor Haubert not Howard. Motion to approve: Commissioner Farmer (M) Commissioner Gilmore (S) Motion Passed
Public Comment	None
PRESENTATION OF AWARD:	Michelle McCumber of Quilts of Valor presented a quilt to former Commissioner Baqar Rizvi. Tuesday, June 18 th there will be a proclamation “Baqar Rizvi Day” awarded to him at the Board of Supervisor’s Meeting.
Sub-Committee Reports	A. VSO: Commissioner Gilmore stated the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last month sent a letter to Andrea Ford informing her of the commission’s active petition to create a Stand-Alone VSO. The VSO will be brought up to the Board of Supervisors in July.



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B. Women Veteran’s Recognition Day: Commissioner Williamson reported:

- There were 50 plus attendees.
- There was a Quilt of Valor presentation.
- Slideshow chronicling the event.
- This was our first annual event, more to come.

Comment: *Commissioner Gilmore recommended that they take it to the State then to the nation to make Women Veteran’s Day recognized globally.*

C. Veteran Observance Days: past, future, Independence Day:

- The Memorial Day event was a huge success.
- The Commission will be participating in the City of Alameda Parade for the Fourth of July, which begins at 10 a.m. on Park & Lincoln.
- A proclamation to recognize the anniversary of “D” Day will be presented at the BOS meeting tomorrow by Supervisor Miley’s office.
- Suicide Prevention month is in September.
- Commissioner Gilmore will be part of the National POW event in September.

D. Membership: Greg Owens relayed the following:

- There are 22 seats and six vacancies.

E. Creation of Transportation Committee:

- There was a discussion to create a Transportation Committee where veterans will be offered free or 50% off transportation.
- Will need to collaborate with AC Transit and Bart.
- Will need to outline the areas where we can approve areas of transportation.

F. Outreach, create an ACVAC Logo:

- No report on Outreach from Commissioner Williamson
- Commissioner Farmer noted that the ACVAC meetings are a form of outreach.
- Luna Contreras created some logos.

Action: *Luna will forward the logos she created to Commissioner Farmer.*

G. Budget: Commissioner Phair reported



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was requested for next year’s budget was a little over \$15,000. • The major focus on street renaming, stand downs, promoting events, and outreach, and certificates/ceremonial awards. <p>H. Black Veteran Historical Corridor: Commissioner Farmer gave an overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will take place on Saturday, June 29th in Oakland. • Free event inside from 9:30 to 10 a.m. • Digital Art display • Public event will be held in front of the building from 10 to 10:45 a.m. <p>I. Stand Down After Action Report: Commissioner Farmer provided a presentation along with his overview comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great turn out. Served 130 people/attended, despite the rain. • There was a press release the day before and received media coverage on ABC News/micro link. • Next Steps is to have it at St. Vincent DePaul in West Oakland. • The sub-committee discussed having multiple stand downs simultaneously in other areas in the county to reach everyone.
<p>STAFF UPDATE</p>	<p>Jennifer Stephens-Pierre commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSO is transitioning back to the 1st floor at the Eastmont location in the near future. • The combined commission budget is \$25,000, so there may be some adjustments that need to be made from the VAC. • The VSO position closed. Waiting on the results and interview dates. • A quarterly report was given last month that was from January through March. Will get the numbers requested and provide them next month. • STATS: Veterans that were seen. 500 contacts and 200 entered claims. • Close out system on June 30th. <p>Comment: Commissioner Gilmore asked if the Statical Report could be emailed to the commissioners before the meeting. Jennifer stated that she will honor that.</p>



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ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS	None.
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.