

# Minutes



**Alameda County  
Veterans Affairs Commission  
General Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



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.

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

**II. AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Recommendations</b>
<b>Adopt Agenda</b>	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b>	Minutes for the June 2024 meeting were approved after corrections were made noting that Commissioner Gilmore was present at the June 17 <sup>th</sup> meeting.  <b>Motion to approve:</b> Commissioner Owens (M) Commissioner Forbes (S)  <b>Motion Passed</b>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marlisa Davis, U.S. Navy &amp; disabled veteran stated that the VSO position interviews will be coming up during the week of the 28<sup>th</sup>, and that she applied for the position and would like the commission's support.</li> <li>○ Kevin Gray, an Outreach Specialist from the California Dept. of Veteran Affairs in attendance is looking forward to learning what the Commission does in Alameda County.</li> </ul>
<b>Guest Speaker:</b>	Gavin O'Neil and Adrian Harper presented on the Veterans Treatment Court.
<b>Guest Speaker:</b>	Bob Swanson, Military Liaison provided an update on the Castro Valley Veterans Library Memorial Foundation (at 20055 Redwood Rd.)



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	<p>which has been proposed as a space for the County’s VSO and/or a Veterans Community Space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The project would take an estimated \$500k to renovate.</li> <li>○ The Foundation has already garnered over 800 petition responses.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Swanson will be emailing Commissioners the petition link.</p>
<p><b>Sub-Committee Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>VSO:</b> Commissioner Gilmore shared the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A letter was sent to Andrea Ford to notify the County the Commission has started an active petition to create a Stand-Alone Veterans Service Office in Alameda County.</li> <li>ii. The petition link can be shared with the public and accessed at: <a href="https://www.jotform.com/form/241261256961153">https://www.jotform.com/form/241261256961153</a>.</li> <li>iii. An outline for the VSO Presentation was shared.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Veteran Observance Days: Independence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Supervisor Miley’s office presented a Proclamation for “D-Day” at the BOS meeting.</li> <li>ii. Coast Guard Day 2024 will be held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.</li> <li>iii. National POW Day on Sept. 20th.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Membership:</b> Greg Owens relayed the following: Vacant positions include the (1) American Veterans of War, (2) Marine Corp. League, (3) Vietnam Veterans of America, (4) Military Officers Association of America (5) Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America.</li> <li>● <b>Transportation Committee:</b> First Transportation sub-committee held via ZOOM on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to provide veterans transportation to/from their medical appointments safely and efficiently.</li> <li>● <b>Outreach:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Next ACVAC meeting will be held at the Vincent DePaul facility in Oakland, where the Stand Down will be held.</li> <li>ii. Swords to Plowshares Veterans Wellness Week July 24 – 28<sup>th</sup></li> <li>iii. Coast Guard Day 2024 will be held on 8/12 at the Alameda Naval Base.</li> <li>iv. National Night Out will be at the Bay Fair San Leandro Bart Station on 8/6 from 4 to 7 p.m.</li> <li>v. Alameda County Homeless Resource Job Fair is this Thursday 7/18.</li> <li>iv. September is Suicide Prevention month, a Suicide Prevention Forum will be held in Hayward on 9/12.</li> <li>v. National POW Day Sept. 20th.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi. The annual Wheelchair Regatta will be held on ?</li> <li>vii. Fisher House Car Show</li> <li>viii. Pole Hiking in Piedmont on ? 8:30am to 12:30pm</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Executive Committee:</b> Commissioner Farmer commented: An Executive meeting was held on July 8<sup>th</sup> – the VSO Presentation slides were reviewed by members.</li> <li>● <b>Black Veteran Historical Corridor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A special segment on the event was covered by local TV stations KRON (CH. 4) &amp; KTVU (CH 2).</li> <li>ii. Special recognition and gratitude given to local artist, Shomari Smith who designed the art and booklet.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Stand Down After Action Report:</b> The Stand Down will be a two-day event – September 13 &amp; 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Vincent DePaul in Oakland.</p>
<b>STAFF UPDATE</b>	No updates
<b>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Logo designs for the commission will be discussed at next month’s meeting.</li> <li>● The Mentorship program is on the web page.</li> <li>● The VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach Team &amp; Partners will be at the Hayward Veterans Memorial Hall for Suicide Prevention Thursday, September 12th .</li> <li>● International Overdose Awareness Day will be recognized on August 28<sup>th</sup> in Palo Alto.</li> <li>● Quilts of Valor is looking to honor veterans and actively seeking recommendations.</li> </ul>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.