

Andrea Ford, Agency Director

Faith M. Battles, Assistant Agency Director



## ALAMEDA COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

### General Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 18, 2024

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

#### In-Person Attendance:

[USS Hornet Museum](#) in the Wardroom

[707 West Hornet Ave, Alameda 94501](#)

Park on the pier for free.

#### Via Zoom Video Conference Call, use link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99526750740?pwd=YlpjQ1JsRm5FM2VsNndTL3FZRmg0Zz09>

#### 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>

*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 October 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 – 11:20      **Guest Speaker/s:**
- ALCO Transportation Options
- 11:20-11:55      **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- Outreach (Farmer) [5 min]
  - Membership [5]
  - Budget [5]
  - Veteran Observance Days (Farmer) [5 min]
  - Veterans Day (Farmer) [5 min]
  - Nomination Committee (Gilmore) [5 min]
  - Stand Down (Farmer) [5 min]

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**Andrea Ford**, Agency Director

**Faith M. Battles**, Assistant Agency Director

11:55-11:59  
12:00 PM

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS. [4 min]**  
**ADJOURNMENT**

## 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** - <sup>1</sup>Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday **May**), <sup>2</sup> Memorial Day (Last Monday **May**), <sup>3</sup> Patriot Day (Annually **September 11**), <sup>4</sup> 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, October 21, 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 10:00 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>
O. Farmer (Chair) = P	Jonathan Montero-Flores
R. Forbes = P	Diarra Piggue
S. Dolgin = P	Jennifer Stephens-Pierre
M. Gilmore (Vice-Chair) = P	Rhoda Turner
N. Harrison = P	
F. Jaffin = E	
L. Brunner = P	
I. LoParo = E	
D. Boldt = E	
R. Cole = E	
G. Owens = E	
J. Phair = P	
K. Warner = E	
D. Williamson = P	
J. McIlvain = E	
S. Yohannes = P	
A. Gordillo = P	

I. **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>	<p>Reviewing meeting minutes from 09/16/2024 has been put on hold until next month’s November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p><b>Motion to approve:</b> N/A</p>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Someone from the public commented that there was misinformation. He received a letter stating that the meeting will be held in Room 341. When he arrived, security didn’t know where room 341 was. Then when he was told where the meeting was held, he was told to sign in, but the commissioner told him he didn’t have to sign in.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff Updates:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jennifer Stephens-Pierre explained the VAC statical data for the period of July – September that included college fee waivers.</li> <li>○ She also commented that moving forward there will be an official quarterly report given to the commission.</li> <li>○ Commissioner Farmer reviewed the Staff Updates in the agenda packet.</li> <li>○ Commissioner Farmer discussed the follow-up questions he would like to have answered in the Staff Updates.</li> <li>○ The new County Veteran Service Officer, Anthony Simpson, was introduced.</li> <li>○ Anthony Simpson first official day is Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Question: Anthony White asked, “Who are you/What do you do?”</b></p> <p><b>Answer: Commissioner Farmer replied, “We are the Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission. The people on the commission represent different charter Veterans organizations as well as every district within the county. He explained what the mission of the ACVAC which is to support different veteran initiatives as it pertains to transportation, shelter, food, and benefits.</b></p>
<p><b>Guest Speaker: Ron Dellums, Federal Building VSO’s</b></p>	<p>Anthony Simpson, from the Disabled American Veterans Organization discussed who they are, services they provide, and who they help. He provided the productivity stats of the DAV.</p> <p>A representative from CALVET stated that they are a state organization that focuses mainly on veterans in California.</p> <p>James Tate from the Regional VA office talked on what he does (he advocates the claim). They process claims nationally, not locally. They spent 2,982 hours on Outreach.</p>
<p><b>Sub-Committee Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Outreach:</b> Commissioner Farmer outlined previous &amp; future Outreach events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District 1- Beer, Brats &amp; Bingo event at the Pleasanton Memorial Building. Commissioners Farmer &amp; Gordillo attended.</li> <li>• District 2 - Gold Star Family event. Commissioner Dolgin attended.</li> <li>• District 3 – USS Hornet, POW MIA</li> <li>• Fleet week open house</li> <li>• District 1 Stand Down event. Commissioners Phair &amp; Forbes were there.</li> <li>• Annual Bingo, October 19<sup>th</sup> 6 – 9 pm at the Alameda Veterans Memorial Bldg.</li> <li>• EDD Veterans Job/Resource Fair on Wednesday, November 6. Time: 10 – 1 pm at the Workforce Service Branch office.</li> <li>• Free Coding Boot Camp for Veterans. Scan QR Code. 6-week course.</li> <li>• Next Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting will take place on the USS Hornet in Alameda on November 18<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament – Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at Las Positas Golf Course.</li> <li>• Alameda County Veterans Art Partnership Exhibit at the Hayward Public Library.</li> <li>• Spaghetti &amp; Bingo, Friday, October 25 at the Hayward Veterans Hall.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Veteran Observance Days:</b></li> </ul>

- Commissioner Farmer stated that he entered the commission to the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pleasanton.
- Richard Valle Veterans Day Lunch on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Hayward Veterans Memorial. Begins at 11 am.
- Veterans Day event at the Oakland Veterans Memorial Bldg. on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 pm.
- Veterans Day event at Carnegie Park in Livermore on November 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 2pm.
- American Legion Post 837 Fremont will host their Veterans Day event on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Park.
- San Leandro Senior Center will host their Veterans Day event on November 11 on E. 14<sup>th</sup> St.
- Castro Valley Veterans Memorial will hold their Veterans Day event on November 11th
- The Veterans Advisory Commission will hold their Veterans Day event at the Frank Ogawa Plaza on November 11 from 11 to 12 noon. The keynote speaker is Supervisor Miley.

➤ **Executive Committee:**

- The Executive Committee met on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and Commissioner Farmer reviewed items discussed such as:
  - ✓ Operation Green Light. This is a way to show our veterans that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.
  - ✓ Veterans Day event at Frank Ogawa Plaza.
  - ✓ New Code of Ethics.

➤ **Nomination Committee:**

- Commissioner Gilmore stated that on October 14, he sent an email to Greg Owens with the question, “He would like to nominate Commissioner Owens for chairperson to the ACVAC with Omar Farmer as vice-chair”. Greg accepted the nomination.
- Commissioner Farmer expressed that voting will not happen until the November meeting.

➤ **Transportation Committee**

- Commissioner Williamson mentioned that the Director of Transportation would like to speak at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Commissioner Williamson stated that they are working on the Uber/Lyft Health initiative.
- The committee is working on getting discounted Bart/Smart cards.

	<p>➤ <b>Stand Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A presentation was shown of the statical data break-down of the Stand-Down.</li> <li>• Next Stand Down will be on December 20 &amp; 21, same time/same place.</li> <li>• Commissioner Farmer stated that he will have a full presentation of last month's Stand Down at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Commissioner Farmer suggested that next year Stand Downs should be picked in advance.</li> <li>• Commissioner Yohannes suggested a pre-filled sign in sheet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p>	<p>Jennifer Stephens-Pierre mentioned that there was a public service announcement on suicide, race for older adults which included veterans that is being aired on Xfinity this month.</p>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm.</p>