



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

AGENDA

Tuesday, January, 21, 2014

**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm in City Hall Council of Chambers Room 1001
301 West Second Street
Austin, TX 78701**

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Cassaundra St. John, Chair	Gary Linder
Phillip Gutierrez, Vice Chair	Bill McLellan
John Conley	Linda Yoder
Chris Garcia	

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Citizens signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes from the Commission on Veterans Affairs November 18, 2013 regular meeting.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Last updates by the Committee working groups about the top three priorities for our Veterans in the City of Austin.
 - i. Homeless Veterans: Andrew Miller, Housing and Urban Development-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program coordinator briefed the board on the qualifications and time waiting for our Veterans on housing vouchers in Austin.
 - ii. Employment and Education: Discussed the possibility of removing the disability requirement and drafted recommendations for the board to approve.
 - iii. Female Veterans: Business of elements discussed along with the partnership with the Department of Labor to assist Female Veterans. Informed the board

about Texas having the largest population of Women Veterans in the United States. Cassaundra would like to form a coalition with other Female Veteran organizations and nonprofits in the City to better serve our Veterans and their needs.

- b. Discussion, consideration and update on meeting with council members about the possibility of the council members touring the new Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.
- c. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on developing a strategy to create a “One Stop Shop” for all Veterans similar to those in San Antonio and Dallas.
- d. Develop a schedule for the Veterans Commission meetings for 2014.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation and discussion led Jaime Nicoletti, Veterans Outreach Program Specialist for the Vet Center on the Mobile Vet Center and what their program offers to our Veterans and the eligibility factors to be seen at their center.
- b. Presentation and discussion led by Carrie Sconza, Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Women Veteran Coordinator, to discuss the needs of female Veterans and how she would like to contribute to assisting our Veterans in her new position with the TVC.
- c. Presentation and discussion led by Prince Humphries, Director of Operations for Healing our Heroes Project. He would like to inform the board members about the organization and how they use recreational therapy with the reintegration process for soldiers and their families and what they do for the local community.

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS

N/A

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioners propose agenda items for future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date.

Please call Allen Bergeron at the Veterans Program Department at 512-974-3459 or Allen.Bergeron@austintexas.gov for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Veterans Commission, please contact Tina Lee at 512-974-3306 or visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/content/commission-veterans-affairs-1>