



## **COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **AGENDA**

**Tuesday, December 16, 2014**

**2:00 pm in Council Chambers Room 1001**

**301 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

**Austin, TX 78701**

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Phillip Gutierrez, Chair (Martinez)	Bill McLellan (Leffingwell)
Del Kolbe, Vice Chair (Riley)	Cassandra Melgar C' De Baca (Spelman)
John Conley (Cole)	Linda Yoder (Tovo)
Chris Garcia (Morrison)	

#### **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 Regular Meeting on November 18, 2014

#### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS – For Discussion and Possible Action**

- a. Updates and reports by the Committee working groups lead about the top three priorities for our Veterans in the City of Austin.
  - i. Homeless Veterans
  - ii. Employment and Education
  - iii. Female Veterans
- b. Approving the following dates for the 2015 Commission Meetings.
  - i. January 21, 2015 , February 18, 2015 , March 18, 2015, April 15, 2015, May 20, 2015, June 17, 2015, July 15, 2015, August 19, 2015, September 16, 2015, October 21, 2015, November 18, 2015, December 16, 2015.

- c. Continue discussing the policy lines regarding property tax exemption for Veterans and a property tax credit/exemption for landlords/management companies to help offset the difference between voucher values and city's lease values.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS - For Discussion and Possible Action**

- a. Ron Lewis, Former State representative will discuss the procedures for attempting to pass legislation regarding property tax credits for landlords accepting housing vouchers.
- b. Estephania LeBaron from Save a Hero will be informing the board about her organization and for the commission to bring awareness to this cause. Save a Hero Event is created to provide a safe and supportive environment for returning combat Veterans to share about their experience of wartime trauma and bring resources and information about PTSD.
- c. Discussion on recommending the implementation of the City of Austin's Veterans Business Enterprise (VBE) designation policy to the MBE/MWBE historically disadvantaged as an economically disadvantaged business as defined by HB194/ACT by 38 U.S.C. Section 101 (2)(16) for service connected disability enterprises.
- d. Discussion on developing a partnership with the ACC Veterans Resource Center.

## **6. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- a. Last meeting for commissioners who did not renew their term.
- b. Having a unified front and to meet with their Council Member monthly.

## **7. 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](mailto: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>