



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

6:30 pm in ACC Veterans Resource Center (Highland Mall)

6001 Airport Blvd

Austin, TX 78752

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Jason Denny – Chair - CM Kitchen
Pete Salazar – Vice Chair - CM Pool
Ed Colinsky – CM Zimmerman
Douglas O’Connell – CM Gallo
Phillip Gutierrez – CM Troxclair
VACANT – CM Casar

George Bailey Harrington – MPT Tovo
David Thomas – CM Houston
Sandra Serna – CM Garza
Guillermo Villarreal – CM Renteria
Nicholas Van Zandt – Mayor Adler

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 Special Called Meeting on December 16, 2015

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction to newest commissioner appointed by Councilmember Garza Sandra Serna, Persian Gulf Veteran and USAF Veteran.

4. OLD BUSINESS – For Discussion and Possible Action

- a. Discussion and updates regarding the top three priorities for our Veterans in the City of Austin.
 - i. Homeless Veterans:
 - ii. Employment, Transitioning Vets and Education:
 - iii. Female Veterans:

- b. Continuation of the discussion regarding the update on the Veterans park initiative for the City of Austin.
- c. Continuation of the discussion regarding the creation of a mentorship program for transitioning Veterans to be paired with a Mentor from the Austin Community.

4. NEW BUSINESS – For Discussion and Possible Action

- a. Presentation and overview of the Travis County Veteran's Court system by Jolene Grajczyk who serves as the Veterans Court administrator.
- b. Presentation and overview regarding homeless Veterans in the city of Austin by ECHO Director of Operations Niki Paul.
- c. Discussion regarding the Veteran Commission's social media capabilities and restrictions and to bring awareness to the public to participate.
- d. Discussion on the 2015 Veterans Day parade regarding the Confederate flag.
- e. Discussion regarding the Veterans Commission interest in participating in a Rundberg pilot program with the City of Austin Code Compliance department regarding their Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) by Chair Jason Denny.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

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 2 days (48 Hours) 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>