

COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES



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REGULAR MEETING
November 20, 2019

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on November 20, 2019 at One Texas Center located on 505 Barton Springs Rd 13th Floor, Austin Texas 78704

Chair Jason Denny called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jason Denny- **Chair**
Pete Salazar- **Vice Chair**
Alfred Bingham

Elisabeth Collura – Rosenberg
Thomas Just
Doris Williams

Staff in Attendance: Karen Haywood, Tina Lee

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Denny asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the special called meeting on September 4, 2019. Vice Chair Salazar made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Collura - Rosenberg seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection. Minutes for September 18, 2019 will be voted on and approved at the next meeting.

2. BUSINESS

- Agenda item 3a on the final language of the recommendation to creating an Office on Military and Veteran Affairs will be tabled to the next meeting.
- Commissioner Just updated the commission on the Veterans Court policy needing change. He recommend that the Commission provide a statement to the court system on the possible change and to encourage prosecutors to refer veterans to specialized veteran courts. This letter will be brought to the next meeting for review and discussion.
- Agenda item 4a on elections will be tabled to the next meeting when more members of the commission are available.
- Vote: Chair Denny asked to obtain a motion to fill out the form to the City of Austin Budget Office to re-allocate the funding for the Veterans Resource Center to be allocated to another initiative
 - Vote was approved on Commissioner Just motion, Vice Chair Salazar second on a 6-0 vote.
- Commissioner Just discussed the TAP (Transition Assistance Program) pilot to reach out to all military bases in the State of Texas to have those identified moving to Austin. The program will consist of briefings, resources and an active database. Commissioner

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Williams recommends to have this pilot on hold until a Department for the City Veterans Office is created. Further discussion will be tabled to the next meeting.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

4. STAFF UPDATES

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

ADJOURN: Chair Denny adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM without objection