COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, September 16, 2026

The COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS convened in a REGULAR Meeting on WEDNESDAY, September 16, 2026, at the City of Austin Permitting & Development Center at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Austin, TX 78752.
Chair Michael McInerney called the COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING to order and confirmed a quorum.

Commissioners in Attendance:
Michael McInerney (Chair)
Jose Reyes (Vice Chair)

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:
Amber Cress
Christopher Wilson
Neal Wendt
Armando Gonzales
Anita Roberts
Lucas Castillo

Commissioners Absent:
Bryce Laake-Stanfield
William Dahlstrom
Fansu Ku

Staff in Attendance:
Jesus Simental – Veterans Administrator, City of Austin Department Office of Equity and Inclusion

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

1. **Terry Herdliska, U.S. Coast Guard member and SkillBridge intern supporting City of Austin Veteran Services, introduced himself and discussed his upcoming retirement, transition to civilian life and work supporting Austin veterans.**

GENERAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. **The minutes from the meeting on 8/19/2026 were approved on Vice Chair Jose Reyes' motion, seconded by Commissioner Christopher Wilson and passed on a 8-0 voice vote.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **The scheduled presentation by Tim Garcia of Team Red, White & Blue was postponed because Garcia was unable to attend due to a family emergency. The Commission agreed to invite him to return for a future meeting.**

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

4. **Discussion and action regarding the Commission's representation on the Joint Inclusion Committee. The Commission discussed the value of participation in the Joint Inclusion Committee, including coordination with other City commissions and opportunities to engage City department leaders during the budget process. Vice Chair Jose Reyes moved to nominate Commissioner Christopher Wilson as the primary representative. The motion was seconded and approved on a 8-0 voice vote. Commissioner Neal Wendt was then nominated as the alternate representative; the nomination was seconded and approved on a 8-0 voice vote.**
5. **Discussion regarding Commission participation in the City of Austin Veterans Day Parade, scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners discussed meeting City Council members at the Stephen F. Austin hotel before the parade and participating on the parade float. Discussion emphasized using the event to build relationships with Council members, share Commission priorities and encourage participation in honoring Austin veterans. Because attendance may exceed four commissioners, a meeting announcement will be prepared. Parade invitations will also be distributed to commissioners for outreach to their Council members.**

FUTURE AGENDA

Team Red, White & Blue will be invited to return for a future Commission meeting.
The Commission will continue exploring a future presentation focused on veteran employment and support resources.
The Commission will revisit Veterans Day Parade participation and commissioner attendance before the November 7 event.

ITEMS ADJOURNMENT

END: 7:19 PM

Commissioner Christopher Wilson made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Neal Wendt. The motion passed by a 8-0 vote.

The minutes were approved at the 21 Oct 2026 meeting by Commissioner Christopher Wilson motion, Armando Gonzales second on a 9-0 vote, William Dahlstrom and Anita Roberts were absent.