

# Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

SEMI – ANNUAL BRIEF TO CITY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2020



## STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

- 1 – CULTIVATE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO STRONG, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- 5 – PROMOTE TRANSPARENT AND CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION AMONGST ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
- 8 – NURTURE AND PROMOTE A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

# VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS



11 Bridge Fellows in 2019 , 7 connected directly to employment, 3 with the City of El Paso.

4 Fellows signed up in Jan 2020. 6 applications pending.



Refined and Streamlined for simple searches. Adding Veteran entrepreneurship and woman Veteran tabs

Will be linked to the Texas Veterans App offered by the Health and Human Services Commission of Texas.



Medical Soldier Transition Program  
Hotel Voucher for Homeless Veterans  
Provided Sponsorship to Veteran Events  
Actively Present and supporting the Veteran Community.



15<sup>th</sup> Annual EL Paso Neighborhood Summit on FT. Bliss.  
Brief at the Ft. Bliss Senior Leader update.  
Part of the planning committee for the Annual Retiree Appreciation Day.  
Active in FT. Bliss Hiring fairs and Transition Seminars.  
Provides an active role in FBTX / DoD initiatives.

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail. The flag is draped and appears to be in motion, with the colors of the stars and stripes clearly visible against a dark, shadowed background.

# The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Serves as a source of information to the status, resources, and services available within the El Paso community to the City's large veteran population.

Stimulate awareness among the public and private sector of veterans' full potential and of the importance of veterans' contributions to the sustainability and development of our community.

**INFORM**

**CONNECT**

Identify the range of services available to veterans and recommend ways to strengthen such services, to include the promotion of collaboration among Service Providers.

Evaluate and recommend programs, policies and practices designed to alleviate veterans' difficulties in meeting basic needs related to transportation, housing, employment and other areas affecting veterans in the city.

**EVALUATE**

# The Veteran Affairs Advisory Committee

❖ Mayor Appt	Lance Lear (Chair)	Term Expires	6/15/2021
❖ District 1	Andrea Hutchins	Term Expires	9/07/2021
❖ District 2	Hope Jackson	Term Expires	7/20/2021
❖ District 3	Don Parrott	Term Expires	9/05/2021
❖ District 4	Reginald Daniel (Secretary)	Term Expires	6/29/2021
❖ District 5	Vacant		
❖ District 6	Bruce Biegel (Vice Chair)	Term Expires	6/30/2021
❖ District 7	Todd Miller	Term Expires	10/19/2021
❖ District 8	Dean Sanders	Term Expires	10/03/2021

# 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ Veteran and Military Affairs Website
- ❖ The Bridge Program
- ❖ Neighborhood Community Events
- ❖ 100% Usage of HUD / VASH Vouchers
- ❖ Homeless Veteran Hotel Voucher Program
- ❖ Approval for a Military Affairs Operating Budget
- ❖ Comprehensive Veterans Needs Assessment Approved



# Veterans Employment

- **Key Concerns:**

Hiring Veterans, Transitioning Service Members and Military Spouses into meaningful employment.

- **Critical Gaps**

Providing Information to and participation with local businesses.

Translation of Military Specialties to City/County job opportunities.

Participation in Veterans, Transitioning Service Members, and Military Spouse focused Hiring Fairs.

- **Recommendations**

Use available City resources and leverage the strong relationship with Fort Bliss to advocate for hiring veterans.

Support the implementation of a Veteran Employment Program into the HR administrative policies and procedures that include:

- VETERAN INTERVIEWS
- VETERAN POINTS FOR EXAMINATION STANDARDS AND RATINGS
- SUBSTITUTING VETERANS EXPERIENCE FOR EQUIVALENT EDUCATION



## Veterans in the Workforce

- The City has earned the “We Hire Vets” decal again for 2020. This is the second consecutive year. The City of El Paso currently has 843 or a 12.16% Veteran Workforce.
- The City Council and the Mayor have taken steps to show that El Paso is “**Veteran Ready**” however, we must have a focused and public strategy.
- We ask City Council to include a goal of achieving a 15% City Veteran Workforce by 2025 into the strategic plan. This would be approximately 1050 Veterans total in the workforce. This shows the city workforce and local employers that the City of El Paso is leading by example.



# Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

## ***Accomplishments:***

1. Hotel Voucher Program (With Legal Team)
2. Improved coordination of resources for veterans (e.g., VA-HUD-VASH, SSVF & CoC programs)
3. Weekly Homeless By Name List meeting

## ***Recommendations:***

1. Support execution of the City's initiative to physically count and gather data to address homelessness.
2. Increase Permanent Supportive Housing
3. Broader Support for Coordinated Entry and access to resources for Veterans
4. Permanent Local Funding Solution

Making Progress But we need to continue pushing forward

EPA TX

GOVERNMENT RESIDENTS BUSINESS VISITORS DEPARTMENTS I WANT TO

Winterfest  
Nov. 23 - Jan. 5

2019 WE HIRE VETS

Fort Bliss is El Paso and El Paso is Fort Bliss

Team Bliss  
"Serving the Nation"

Report An Issue  
Using EP311

Meeting Videos  
Live & Recorded

Agendas & Minutes  
Boards & Commissions

Activities  
EPDaycation

## STAY IN THE KNOW

CITY BUDGET: FY 2020

Notice of Intent  
To issue certificates of obligation... Learn More

Veteran Resources  
Services for El Paso veterans.

Meetings FROM

Your City in 5  
A weekly snapshot of your City government and City Events.



A weekly snapshot of your City government and City Events.



A monthly/Quarterly snapshot of veterans in our city

VETERAN RESOURCES

HOME CHILD CARE DISCOUNTS EDUCATION AND TRAINING EMERGENCY INFORMATION EMPLOYMENT FAMILY AND CAREGIVER HEALTHCARE HOUSING LEGAL AND TAX TRANSPORTATION VOLUNTEERING

Employment

EMPLOYMENT

- TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION [-]
- TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION [-]
- WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - BORDERPLEX [-]
- EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD & RESERVES [-]
- ONWARD TO OPPORTUNITY [-]
- HIRING OUR HEROES [-]

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Home • Veteran Resources • Education and Training

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Education & Training

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE [-]
- INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COLLEGE [-]
- INTERNATIONAL TRUCK DRIVING [-]
- NEW HORIZONS COMPUTER LEARNING CENTERS [-]
- PARK UNIVERSITY [-]
- SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY [-]
- TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY [-]
- UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO [-]
- WEBSTER UNIVERSITY [-]
- WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE [-]
- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY [-]

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- WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE [-]
- NATIONAL UNIVERSITY [-]



# Veteran's Affairs Advisory Committee Recommendations



We ask that council staff to implement following Title 6, CH 657 used by the State to set a goal that 20% of the total number of qualified applicants who will be interviewed for a position will be Veterans that meet the minimum qualifications for the position. This rule will not apply if there are no qualified Veterans for the position.



We ask council to *staff* on adding the terms “*or related experience*” and “*...degree is preferred*” to our city job descriptions.



We ask that council implement the City having a goal of achieving a 15% veteran workforce by 2025.




We ask council to consider *staffing* on affiliating City jobs with military occupational specialty codes.



## Veteran's Affairs Advisory Committee Recommendations for Strategic Goals



-  We ask that council staff and vote (if necessary) to include a new goal inside the cities current Goal 6 (Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management) that we integrate a new series 6 *goal* that specifies that the city will hire 15% Veterans by 2025.

***Thank you! We are Building  
A  
Veteran Ready El Paso***

