



CITY CLERK DEPT  
2019 AUG 26 AM 11:16

# Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

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## Semi-Annual Brief to Mayor and Council

July 22nd, 2019 – 9:00 am  
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1, Council Chambers

### MINUTES

#### Members Present

Lance Lehr  
Ed Fleming  
Nathaniel Chaney  
Bruce Biegel  
Efren Montelongo

#### Members Absent

Lynn Westbrook  
Donald Crawford  
Todd Miller  
Ian Hanna

1. The VAAC Presentation was Item 25.1 on the July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 City Council Regular Agenda. Briefed the El Paso City Mayor and Council to update council on the status of homelessness, Employment and Marketing / Outreach for the El Paso Veteran and Military community.

#### **BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee last briefed Council in October 2018. Projects and Incentives in the areas of Homelessness, Employment and Marketing / Outreach have been the focus of the committee. The Committee will discuss the efforts to implement Built for Zero in an effort to minimize Veteran Homelessness. Discussion will continue to show efforts made by the City Human Resources department to recruit Veterans for Employment as well as discussion to show efforts to maintain a low Veteran unemployment rate. The Committee will present efforts taken to reach out to the community and connect Veterans through marketing and outreach.

2. **Discussion and Action:** Issue: The VAAC presented the current status and Future initiatives in the areas of Veteran Employment, Veteran Homelessness and Marketing and Outreach to the City's Veteran and Military Community.

**City Council Action:** On July 23, 2019, City Council voted unanimously to add a proposed budget for Military affairs. Council directed Staff and City management to deliver cost and a timeline to implement the recommendations of the Committee and engage PIO and HR to develop professional branding while simultaneously developing a communication strategy to implement the brand on National, Federal, State and Local platforms.

**Talking Points:**

- The Military Affairs department must be funded to cover departmental costs, as well as marketing and outreach strategies. This budget will assist with programs such addressing the immediate needs of homeless Veterans and provide a platform to make El Paso Veteran Ready over Veteran Friendly.
- Military Affairs needs 10K to put toward the cost of a County / City Veterans Needs Assessment conducted by Combined Arms. This will give the City a holistic view of the issues facing our Veterans and their families. The assessment will enable a synchronizing and prioritizing of resources to aid in the prevention of Veteran unemployment and homelessness.
- The City Strategic Goals should include Veterans. Specific goals in Economic Development, Quality of Life, and Communication with Community should include incentives for Veterans and their family members. In addition the city should include an employment strategy in Goal 6 focused on hiring 20% Veterans by the year 2025 as a part of the 25 in 2025.
- The City must find a Permanent Funding Solution to address the gaps in services for Veterans who are not VA eligible and experience chronic homelessness due to inadequate case management and an inefficient Coordinated Entry process.

**3. Presentation Complete: 10:15 am**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:**

*The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the Veterans Affairs Advisory Community of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meeting Act.) The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward items for public discussion, as appropriate.*

*Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY*

*Section 551.072 DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REAL PROPERTY*

*Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS*

*Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS*

*Section 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES*

*Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

**NEGOTIATIONS**

*Sign Language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Requests must be made to the Community Development department at phone number 915-212-1654 a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting. Copies of these Minutes will be provided in Braille, large print or audiotape upon request. Requests must be made a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting.*

POSTED THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August AT 1130 BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.