



CITY CLERK DEPT  
2021 JUL 1 AM 11:43

## Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

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August 21, 2020 – 10:00 am  
Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams  
Live Streamed Via:

City's website. <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>  
Television on City15

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

### MINUTES

#### Members Present

Lance Lehr  
Bruce Biegel  
Dean Sanders  
Don Parrott  
Justin Rotti  
Hope Jackson

#### Members Absent

Reginald Daniel  
Laura Butler

#### Unfilled Positions

District 1

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 10:04 am.

2. **Roll Call:** *Quorum*.

#### 3. **Citizen Comment Period:**

Darrell Mond El Paso Veterans and Riders Association - standing by ready to support the VAAC.

Mike Amaral El Paso VA Health Clinic – 30% Disability can contact HR Representative and obtain preference for employment for qualified positions. William Beaumont has the same program. Mike Amaral will send instructions on how to obtain employment through the Chief Military Officer. Many positions available, not all available positions are medical.

Ben Miranda Endeavors- Continuous Services for Veterans and Family members. Homeless prevention with extensive case management contact @ 915 308-9760. Clinic

continues to provide Virtual counseling. Rapid Rehousing program with the OTC. Six case managers providing rental assistance for up to 6 months. Contact 915 212-2250. TMPC will release the DEAG on September 1, 2020.

**4. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of May 15, 2020: Minutes approved.**

**5. Discussion and Action on Community Updates: City of El Paso Veteran Initiatives Cross-Functional Team (Pending)**

**Cecilia Mungaray (HR) –Employment**

Job postings no longer have the words “must have” They now have language that states minimum specifications or the word “preferred”. Working to meeting the 20% hiring rule. City of Houston and Laredo had to create a City Charter change to implement the policy. Veterans are now identified to department Directors on the Eligible list. Created an HR4Vets Program. This program provides assistance by reviewing resumes, applications, and the interview process. HR will provide input to the Veteran to help them to highlight their skills in order to maximize their chances for employment. Central HR will adopt these policies and programs and implement them across all departments. HR and the Chief Military Officer will be working with the legal team to push for a City Charter Change to implement a 20% hiring rule.

**Mark Weber (CD) – Homelessness**

Community development requested and received \$233,424 through the Home Investment Partnership Program to support Homeless Veterans. (Home Funds under HUD) This rental assistance will provide rent for 24 Veterans. The Veterans Permanent Supportive Housing Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be released to the Community on September 14, 2020. Applications will be due on October 12, 2020. Announcement of the award will be on October 19, 2020. The VAAC will be a part of the drafting and award process. A working group will be established that will assist in the development of the qualification criteria.

Jon Martin Opportunity Center – July 22, 2020 opened an HCHV Shelter under contract with the Department of VA. Can house up to 15 homeless Veterans. Currently 3 are housed. Each has a private room or a roommate. 61 Veterans have come through the Delta Center. That is 6.8% of the 895 Homeless Population. VTLC contract has been renewed. In September the OTC will start the Work First Employment initiative focused on the hard to employ that includes Veterans.

Motion to have the homeless subcommittee designate two personnel to sit with CD and prepare the NOFA and report back to the VAAC on a regular basis. Motion passes unanimously.

Anyone who helps develop this NOFA cannot also apply or bid for the funding. This will create a conflict of interest.

**Soraya Ayub (PIO) – Marketing**

Sun City Bliss for September highlights the efforts of the EL Paso VA, Veterans One Stop and The Steven A Cohen Military Families and Veterans Clinic. The Veteran Resource page is continuing to evolve. The City of El Paso Veterans and Military Affairs Facebook page is active. Future initiatives is to build fliers to spread the locations of resources for Veterans to receive information important to them. Lance and the Sub-committee on Marketing would like to schedule a meeting with PIO to further initiatives. Posters and fliers need to be on Ft. Bliss.

**6. Discussion and Action: Sub Committee Chairs update on assigned focus areas.**

**Bruce Biegel – Employment**

Worked closely with HR to develop the above initiatives. Will contact sub-committees and Chief Military Officers on the upcoming Job Fairs.

**Hope Jackson – Homelessness**

Motion and Second to rescind the last action approved dictating that only the Homeless subcommittee will serve on the working group and allow anyone on the VAAC to serve specifically Hope Jackson, Don Parrot, and Lance Lehr. Motion passes unanimously.

Hope Jackson and Don Parrott (Don is subject to approval from the TVC Compliance Department) will serve on the Working group to help develop the Veterans PSH NOFA. Lance Lehr will be a participant.

**Marketing- Lance Lehr**

Please like the City of El Paso Veterans and Military Affairs Facebook page.

**7. Discussion and Action: Develop a Strategy for the Semi- Annual Brief to council January 2021**

Tabled until next meeting

**8. Discussion: Update from El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board**

Carl Dwyer briefed that the office is still providing Disability VA claims, benefits assistance, and financial assistance. Since July, 2020 assisted 14 Veteran Households and have 29 clients pending. Contact at 915 215-0414. Please reach out to Carl or the City for a nomination form for the El Paso County Veteran of the Year.

**9. Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update**

FY 21 Budget remains the same. Continuous working on the development of IGSA's with Ft. Bliss. Standing up a DEAG working group to prioritize and prepare projects for upcoming years.

**10. Announcements**

Check the City of El Paso Veteran and Military Affairs Facebook page and the Veteran webpage. New tab for Veteran Organizations has been published. Check the County Veterans Facebook page.

**11. Next VAAC Meeting: September 18th, 2020 10:00 AM Virtual Meeting online.**

**12. Adjourn: 11:30AM**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_ BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.**