



**Veteran's Affairs Commission**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**January 12th, 2023**

**RECEIVED**

2023 JUL 17 PM 12:30

CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS

**Agenda ID # 230027**

**City of Dallas 1500 South Marilla Street 6 ES Dallas Texas**

**CISCO WEBEX LINK, Call-In # Telephone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2491 792 7213**

**VICE CHAIR COMMISSIONER RONNIE MESTAS**

**PRESENT: [10]**

Ronnie Mestas, District 6, Commissioner and Vice Chair
Juan Preciado, District 2, Commissioner
Dr. Katina Robertson, District 3, Commissioner
Fred Walker, District 4, Commissioner
Gaylord Sherman, District 5, Commissioner
Diane Birdwell, District 7, Commissioner
Kevin Henton, District 8, Commissioner
Steven Ramos, District 9, Commissioner
Scott Chase District 11, Commissioner
Fred Wells, District 12, Commissioner

**ABSENT: [3]**

Mary Ellen Viancourt, District 13, Commissioner
Peter Gray Smith, District 14, Commissioner

Vice Chair Ronnie Mestas called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

November meeting minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Wells motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Ramos seconded. Motion was passed

**Vote to Approve Subcommittees**

Christina da Silva shared the information from the City Attorney's Office on the parameters for establishing a subcommittee.

Commissioner Ramos made a motion to establish a Veteran Homeless Subcommittee that would focus on addressing veteran homelessness. Commissioner Ramos also

included in the motion that Veteran Homeless Subcommittee should include 3 commissioners and two commissioners would make a quorum. The Chair would be able to invite people as they see fit and determine meetings on an ad hoc basis. Additionally, the Chair would serve as the secretary on record. Commissioner Birdwell seconded the motion. Motioned passed.

Commissioner Birdwell and Commissioner Walker volunteered to serve as members of the subcommittee.

Christina shared that she would send an email to the Commissioner to collect names of other commission who would be interested in participating in the Veteran Homeless committee.

### **Staff Report**

Christina shared that the Veteran Affairs Commission will be required to submit an annual report in February. She would be working to draft the report that would include the efforts that Veteran Affairs Commission and goals that Commissioners could review and provide feedback.

Christina also shared that Communications, Outreach and Marketing department was in the process of drafting the resource card that could be distributed and increase awareness of resources.

### **Announcements**

Eboni Jacobs from Legal Aid Northwest Texas shared that they have received a grant for veterans who are facing homelessness. Through this grant Legal Aid is able to support with applying or appealing for benefits, employment, obtaining identification, and civil legal services such as evictions, wills, trust, probate, child support, divorces, and taxes.

Eboni shared that in her experience there is a lack of awareness of services.

Commissioner Wells shared that they have continued to see several veteran serving organizations state that there is a need for increased awareness. Eboni concurred that increasing awareness resources would be key.

Commissioner Mestas asked if Legal Aid has other satellite offices in clinics or other locations. Eboni shared that currently Legal Aid the veteran resource center and a community center in the South Dallas. Eboni shared that she would be available to provide outreach and would speak

Commissioner Ramos asked if there were any guidance that Eboni would recommend for the City of Dallas?

Eboni shared that the City could consider working more intentionally with community partners to refer potential veterans that could benefit and collaborate to build a stronger network for referral and support.

Commissioner Fred Wells shared that the VA hospital started 1million veteran program to build a database to create preventive medical care. Interested participants can call 1 - 866 -441-6075

Commissioner Mestas also publicly thanked Linda Saucedo from the Veteran Administration and Percy Jackson from the Dallas Vet Center for attending the Veteran Appreciation Event in West Dallas.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm.

Prepared by:  
Christina da Silva

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. da Silva'.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ronnie L. Mestas'.

Ronnie Mestas, Vice Chair Veteran's Affairs Commission

Webex webinar recording: Veteran's Affairs Commission -20230112 1701-1

Recording link:

<https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/lr.php?RCID=b1253be3e3415e5fb8ed1fc225e300e1>