



VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

222 W. Hospitality Ln., 3rd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470

Minutes of the Meeting July 22, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE –Members: Rachel Hay (Board Liaison), Jeff Allen, Paul Marsh, Kelly Maxwell, Terry Porter, Michael Rector, James Willingham, and recording Secretary Johnna Yuhas were present. Jim Frost, Octavio Sanchez, and George Valenzuela were absent. Guest: Christian Garcia.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Minutes from the meeting held on May 20, 2024, were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Rachel Hay provided an update.

- The Department is close to filling the two vacant Veterans Service Officer Positions with candidates expected to start by the end of July or the beginning of August. The candidate for the Clinical Therapist II position has accepted the position and is anticipated to onboard in September.
- The recruitment for the director’s position is ongoing. The first review of applications just passed and was a robust recruitment.
- The Veterans Affairs Department will be attending these upcoming events:
 - August 6 - National Night Out event in Yucaipa

FROM THE MEMBERS

James Willingham – Nothing to report.

Terry Porter – The local Marine Corps League received a request to assist a marine needing financial help and was able to help the veteran through their hard time.

Paul Marsh – Nothing to report.

Michael Rector – Jeff Allen asks if Mr. Rector has seen an increase in the homeless population requesting assistance due to the latest Supreme Court ruling. Mr. Rector is not directly involved with those services, but he hasn’t seen too many veterans lately. When he sees a veteran come through, he takes the next step to see how to better serve that customer.

Kelly Maxwell – Nothing to report.

James Willingham - Has a resource to assist homeless veterans in the High Desert if the need arises.

FROM THE FLOOR

Christian Garcia – Thanks the committee for allowing him to attend, and for all they do for the veterans in the area. Mr. Garcia retired, after 24 years of military service in 2020, and wanted to attend the meeting to get involved and be of service to the county.

DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, September 23, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the SB County VA conference room and via Zoom.

Monday, January 27, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the SB County VA conference room and via Zoom.

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ADJOURNMENT - Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff Allen".

Jeff Allen
Chair