



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday February 11, 2025 – 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME / Commissioner Hanley Chan

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioners Joseph Baba, James Boatman, Hanley Chan, Deborah Dacumos, Prince Jordan Kelly, Darya Kutovaya, John Reissenweber

ABSENT: President Bill Barnickel (excused), Vice-President Nicholas Rusanoff (excused), Commissioners Jason Chittavong (excused), Jenny Perez (excused)

Quorum present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Chan led attendees in reciting Pledge of Allegiance.

SET AGENDA

Commissioner Chan asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes.

Motion called to approve the agenda.

Motion / Second / All in Favor

Motion passed. Agenda set.

Absent: Barnickel, Rusanoff, Chittavong, Perez

COMMUNICATIONS

CVSO Report:

- CVSO interim director Maurice Delmer presented the CVSO report for January 2025. [Report is posted to VAC website.] The report included an update regarding the hiring



status of CVSO. Mr. Delmer noted that while the mayor directed the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) to identify savings, there is no foreseeable impact on current CVSO staffing levels. However, the Mayor's directive has put hiring of the CVSO program manager position on hold for the time being. At the presentation's conclusion, a Q&A session with commissioners included the following comments:

- Commission Reissenweber asked if volunteers can assist with the CVSO February 26 event. Mr. Delmer replied that he needed to look into the feasibility of engaging volunteers and will follow up with Commissioner Reissenweber.
- Mr. Delmer noted that earlier today he emailed reports to the commission secretary that had been requested by commissioners during last month's meeting. The commission secretary confirmed reports were emailed to all commissioners. If there are any questions about this information, please contact Mr. Delmer.

As there were no further comments, CVSO update was concluded.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Commissioner Chan called for any questions or comments regarding January 14, 2025 meeting minutes. No comments.
- Public Comment called. No public comment.
- Motion called to approve January 14, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

Motion / Second / All in Favor. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Absent: Barnickel, Rusanoff, Chittavong, Perez

NEW BUSINESS

- Advocate for a veterans preference in Mayor's plan to add 1,500 emergency homeless shelter beds. A letter requesting the incorporation of a veterans preference was drafted by Commissioner Jordan and shared with commissioners. Commissioner Jordan led discussion. [DISCUSSION /ACTION]
 - Commissioner Jordan referenced draft letter and noted the PIT count cited in the letter, which showed number of homeless veterans decreased in 2024 from the PIT count of 2022. He asked for questions or comments.



- Commissioner Baba asked if the plan would include stipulations in giving beds to homeless veterans. He noted as an example that Los Angeles sets stipulations that veterans suffering from mental health crisis seek treatment. Commissioner Jordan replied he is unaware of any such stipulations. The goal is to get as many homeless veterans as possible off the streets and connected to resources.
- Commissioner Reissenweber asked if CVSO can keep separate statistics on veterans accepted into shelters. This data could be shown to BoS and the Mayor's Office as a measure of success.
- Commissioner Chan followed up to question about stipulations. He said any stipulations in Mayor's homelessness plan would apply to all and that would include veterans.
- Commissioner Dacumos recommended the plan include navigation centers.

At conclusion of discussion, motion was called to approve sending letter to the Mayor's Office.

Motion / Second / All in Favor. Motion passed. Action approved.

Absent: Barnickel, Rusanoff, Chittavong, Perez

(Note: Commissioner Jordan will provide contact names to commission secretary.)

- Veterans Blvd. Sign is Missing. Commissioner Chan provided update. [DISCUSSION]
 - Commissioner Chan called Assemblymember Catherine Stefani's office and was told sign was taken down for repair. The office will update Commissioner Chan when the sign is returned.
- Update re First Year Free Program.

This program provides waivers of Permit, License, and Business Registration Fees for Small Businesses. It is set to expire in June 2025. Commissioner Chan shared update. [DISCUSSION]

 - Commissioner Chan noted Supervisor Sherrill proposed extending the program beyond 2025. If extension is unsuccessful, Supervisor Melgar will put a vote to give certain classes, such as disabled veterans, free first year waivers.



GOOD WELFARE

This is the opportunity for members of the Veterans Affairs Commission to share special thanks and congratulatory remarks for the good welfare taking place in the veteran community.

- Commissioner Chan extended good welfare to the family of WWII veteran SSgt. Yeun Hop. Commissioner Chan recommended this meeting be adjourned in memory and honor of Yeun Hop.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Dacumos announced the Gold Star Parents Honor and Remembrance Event will be held February 27 and 28 at the Marines' Memorial.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Speaker: Chris Ward Kline
Chris said veterans in the city are talking more about benefits. He has noticed many of the VAC commissioners participate in community events and said that means a lot to people when they can meet a commissioner. He thanked the commissioners and said he appreciates all their good work.

HONOR REPORT AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

In memory of American service members in all wars and conflicts who made the ultimate sacrifice. We also remember the passing of homeless veterans, veterans who died while awaiting approval of benefits, and suicides within the veteran and armed service communities.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

This meeting was dedicated to the honor, sacrifice, and memory of U.S Army Air Corps Staff Sgt. Yuen Hop. A WWII veteran, SSgt. Hop went missing in action on December 29, 1944. 80 years later, in 2024, his remains were recovered and returned to his family in San Francisco. Staff Sgt Hop was laid to rest at Golden Gate National Cemetery on February 7, 2025.

The next regular meeting of the Veterans Affairs Commission will be held in-person at 6:00pm in Room 416 at San Francisco City Hall on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Links and meeting documents can be found on the Veterans Affairs Commission website.



Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy
Commission Secretary
Veterans Affairs Commission

This document is Official Business of the Veterans Affairs Commission, City and County of San Francisco. It is part of the official Public Record of the City and County of San Francisco.

Public Access:

Public Records are covered under the State of California Brown Act, as well as the Sunshine Ordinance of the City and County of San Francisco. These acts ensure that deliberations of City Business are conducted “before the People,” and that City and County operations are open to the People’s review.

For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact the Administrator of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

Veterans Affairs Commission Meetings:

General meetings of the SFGVAC are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, with the exception for the month of July, when there is no scheduled SF VAC meeting, and are held in Room 416 in City Hall.

Meeting confirmation, and specific announcement of general meetings are made via public posting of the Meeting Agenda as required by law, at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for SFGVAC meetings (and archived meeting minutes) are available on the SFGVAC Pages of the City of San Francisco website, and are also available for public view and inspection at the 5th Floor Government Information Center at the San Francisco Public Library, at 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. The documents librarian telephone number is (415) 554-4472.

Disability Access:

City Hall of San Francisco is wheelchair accessible via all entrances. There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more public transit information services, call (415) 923-6142 or dial 311.



Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

If you or a Veteran, you know is in immediate danger to themselves or others, please call 911 or visit your local emergency room.

The Veterans Crisis Line is also available by texting 838255 or by going to their website and chatting with a mental health professional.



SAN FRANCISCO
SUICIDE
PREVENTION

24/7 Confidential
Support

Text [MYLIFE](#) to [741741](#)

Crisis Line:
(415) 781-0500