



VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 – 6:00 pm

Room 416, San Francisco City Hall

WILLIAM BARNICKEL, PRESIDENT
NICHOLAS RUSANOFF, VICE-PRESIDENT
JOSEPH BABA, JAMES BOATMAN, HANLEY CHAN,
JASON CHITTAVONG, DEBORAH DACUMOS,
PRINCE KELLY JORDAN, DARYA KUTOVAYA,
JENNY PEREZ, JOHN REISSENWEBER

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CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL / CONFIRM QUORUM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SET AGENDA [Action]

PRESENTATION

- Sponsored by the Mensch International Foundation and American Legion, the “Be A Mensch” event on Tuesday, September 2 will pay tribute to veterans, including a WWII veteran resident of San Francisco. Speaker Steven Geiger with the Mensch Foundation will provide details of the upcoming event.
- VHA - Community-Based Veteran Suicide Prevention Program – Presenting on the public health approach to expand Veteran suicide prevention efforts beyond the VA healthcare system and into the community. Review of suicide prevention and mental health resources available for veterans and their loved ones.



Presenter: Amanda Lopez, LCSW (Suicide Prevention - Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator)

COMMUNICATION

CVSO Report

SF CVSO Maurice Delmer
[Discussion / Q&A with Commissioners – 10 minutes]

Executive Team Updates

Secretary
Vice-President
President

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes Draft
[ACTION / VOTE]

NEW BUSINESS

- Explore opportunities for Commission to participate in upcoming celebrations commemorating 250-year anniversary of US Navy. Commissioner Chan to discuss. [DISCUSSION]
- Deteriorating conditions surrounding Veterans Alley Mural in the Tenderloin. Commissioner Rusanoff to lead discussion, including review of a draft letter to District 5 Supervisor. [DISCUSSION / ACTION]
- Veterans Affairs Commission Lapel Pins. Commissioner Chan to lead discussion. [DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE ACTION]
- Request of a Mayoral Certificate of Honor for Dr. John Akhtar Straznickas on the occasion of his retirement from the San Francisco VA Health Care System after three decades of service to veterans. Commissioner Rusanoff to lead discussion. [DISCUSSION / ACTION]

OLD BUSINESS



- Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption - CA Senate Bill 296. This is a follow-up discussion to last month's meeting. Commissioner Kutovaya drafted a letter requesting BoS support for bill. Letter submitted for Commission approval. [DISCUSSION / ACTION]

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An opportunity for commission members to share information about San Francisco veteran events or briefly comment on San Francisco veterans related news.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

An opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Commission on items of interest to the public that are within the subject of veteran affairs. Members of the public should address the commission as a whole and not direct comments to a specific commissioner. Speakers are allowed up to two minutes for comments. Each member of the public will be allotted the same number of minutes to speak. The President or the Commission may limit the total testimony to 30 minutes.

Members of the public who want a document placed on the overhead, please notify the commission secretary in advance for assistance.

HONORS 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

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.

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Veterans Affairs Commission Meetings:

General meetings of the SFVAC are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, except for 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 SFVAC meetings (and archived meeting minutes) are available on the SFVAC Pages of the City of San Francisco website.

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**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.



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