



January 13, 2026

LETTER TO MAYOR - DRAFT

Dear Mayor Lurie,

On behalf of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission, I want to extend our warmest wishes for a productive and successful new year. As we begin 2026, our commission is optimistic that progress will continue in advancing initiatives that support San Francisco veterans and their families.

Recent achievements reflect the City's growing commitment to veterans. For example, the veterans preference in the Below Market Rate housing lottery – established by an ordinance that passed with unanimous support from the Board of Supervisors and was activated in the lottery in 2024 – has already connected more veterans to housing, with 2025 data showing measurable impact. Additionally, the future development at 1035 Van Ness Avenue that will include 124 units for formerly homeless veterans, was very welcome news and demonstrates increased attention to the needs of our city's homeless veterans.

Looking ahead, the Commission will continue to offer our guidance on addressing key issues such as housing, employment opportunities, healthcare access, and mental health support. We remain committed to ensuring that the voices of veterans are represented in policy decisions that affect their well-being. We are especially grateful and encouraged by the actions your office took last year in support of veterans and by the collaborative environment we experienced with your office staff. We are confident this productive collaboration will continue and that 2026 will be a year of meaningful progress for those who have served our nation.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to making San Francisco a city that truly honors its veterans. Best wishes for a wonderful year ahead.

Sincerely,

William Barnickel
President, San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission
City and County of San Francisco