



## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – 6:00 pm

### CALL TO ORDER

President Barnickel called meeting to order at 6:01pm and welcomed attendees.

### ROLL CALL

#### PRESENT:

President Bill Barnickel, Vice-President Hanley Chan, Commissioners Joseph Baba, James Boatman, Deborah Dacumos (remote), Prince Kelly Jordan, Jenny Perez, John Reissenweber, Nicholas Rusanoff

#### EXCUSED:

Commissioner Darya Kutovaya

Quorum established.

### RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The commission secretary read the land acknowledgment.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioners and attendees recited Pledge of Allegiance.

### SET AGENDA

President Barnickel asked if any comments or changes to the agenda. Hearing none, a motion was called to approve agenda:

Motion / Second / All in Favor

Motion passed. Agenda approved as posted.

Absent: Kutovaya



## PRESENTATION

### **Crown Power, Inc. / BLV Housing – Opportunities for Veterans**

Presenter: Sunil Suri, CEO

Mr. Suri began the presentation by sharing his background as a first-generation immigrant and business owner, stating that he now wishes to give back to veterans, inspired in part by his father's military service. Mr. Suri then provided an overview of various projects offering housing, employment, and education opportunities for San Francisco veterans including:

Two residential buildings for veteran housing on California Street and Mason Street. If implemented, the two buildings could house approximately 100 veterans.

Potential security and crowd control employment positions for veterans at Levi Stadium events. Mr. Suri further noted he operates a fleet of autonomous vehicles and veterans could be employed to provide a visible security presence and public safety support as passengers on vehicles.

Mr. Suri stated he has relationships with multiple universities including University of California, California State University, California Maritime Academy, and Stanford University. Veterans could enroll in educational programs while living in provided housing.

Commission discussion included questions about housing types (SRO vs. apartments), ADA accessibility, rent affordability, and level of coordination with veteran service organizations. Commissioners emphasized the importance of ensuring housing quality and veteran-centered services, noting that some veterans are reluctant to accept SRO-style housing. Mr. Suri said he is open to working with veteran organizations to ensure housing meets veterans' needs.

The Commission thanked Mr. Suri for the presentation and his commitment in supporting veterans.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### **County Veterans Service (CVSO) – February Report:**

- Gerardo Carr, CVSO acting director, reviewed February activities including benefits awarded, number of scheduled appointments and walk-in clients, claims filed, and number of Medi-Cal verifications. He also reviewed various outreach events conducted by CVSO staff during the month and shared two benefits advocacy success stories. [The full report is posted on VAC website.]



- Commissioners raised concerns regarding staffing shortages at CVSO and asked whether additional staff was needed. Gerardo stated the office currently operates with limited staffing but has advocated for additional staff based on workload and service demand.
- Commissioner Rusanoff requested greater focus on assisting veterans with discharge upgrades. He noted upgrades can allow veterans to regain eligibility for VA healthcare, benefits, and GI Bill education benefits. Gerardo responded that strengthening coordination between CVSOs and partner veteran organizations will support this effort.

### **VAC Executive Team Updates:**

- **Secretary:**
  - CVSO recruitment update: Interviews are underway, and the secretary confirmed that a veteran is included on the interview panel. Final candidate selection is expected by the end of March.
  - Commission Lapel Pins: The secretary showed final design pin mock-up. After receiving final approval from HSA, approximately 50 pins will be ordered with an estimated production time of 6 – 8 weeks.
- **Vice-President:**
  - Vice President Chan reported that Supervisor Melgar's office, in collaboration with the City Administrator, has completed a study on women, veteran, and minority-owned businesses that receive City contracts. Supervisor Melgar's office is reviewing the findings, and VP Chan hopes they will present the veteran-related data at a future VAC meeting.
- **President:**
  - President Barnickel thanked Commissioners Reissenweber, Perez, Rusanoff, and Chan for joining him last Thursday at the SFPD Small Business Advisory Forum summit and for visiting Supervisor Wong's office afterward. Commissioner Rusanoff shared valuable information on veteran housing with Supervisor Wong's chief of staff. The group then met at CA Senator Wiener's office to discuss veterans' issues, including the fact that California is one of the few states that taxes military retirement income. Senator Wiener's staff reported they are working on this issue. President Barnickel noted it was a productive day and thanked the Commissioners for their participation.



## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- President Barnickel asked if there were comments or questions from commissioners about the February 10, 2026 meeting minutes. No comments from commissioners. No public comment. [ACTION]
- Motion to approve / Second / All in Favor
- Minutes approved as submitted.

Absent: Kutovaya

## NEW BUSINESS

- Update from commission secretary on Memorial Day planning. [DISCUSSION]
  - The Commission secretary met with Golden Gate Cemetery staff about the program for this year's Memorial Day ceremony at San Francisco Presidio. She noted some commissioners have already volunteered to participate – President Barnickel will lead Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Dacumos has invited a Gold Star family.
  - Commission secretary said there are still slots to be filled in the program, including a guest speaker for the event. Golden Gate Cemetery staff welcomes support from the commission. Commissioners interested in assisting with planning were asked to contact the commission secretary.
- Approve a request to the Mayor's Office for a Certificate of Honor in recognition of San Francisco resident, Marine and Korean War veteran Robert (Bob) Vicari. [ACTION]
  - President Barnickel asked for motion to approve certificate request.
  - Motion / Second / All in Favor
  - Commission secretary will send request to the Mayor's Office.

Absent: Kutovaya

- Discuss ideas on how Commission can communicate on a monthly basis with Mayor, BoS, and HSA. Commissioner Perez led discussion. [DISCUSSION]
  - Commissioner Perez spoke about importance of establishing a consistent communication channel between the Commission and various agencies and



governing bodies including the Mayor, BoS, and HSA. Suggested this is something that could be done on a monthly or quarterly basis – whatever the Commission decides. Envisions this as a report about Commission's current work and achievements. It was noted that maintaining a presence with HSA would also allow the Commission to provide updates and stay informed on matters affecting veterans services, especially in regard to hiring positions that affect veterans. Through regular reporting by the Commission, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors will keep informed about how the Commission is fulfilling its advisory role.

- Discussion continued with commissioners agreeing on importance of increasing its visibility and strengthening its connection to city organizations. Commissioner Perez offered to create a template report to bring to a future commission meeting. The commission secretary noted the report must be submitted following established procedure to place items on a meeting agenda.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Summary of meetings with following District Supervisor Offices:
  - District 2, Supervisor Sherrill: VP Chan and Commissioner Reissenweber visited District 2 office to share the commission's concern regarding the Streamlining Task Force's recommended name change. Legislative aide Mick acknowledged the office had received the commission's letter on the same topic. He also said he'd look into adding information about CVSO into supervisor's newsletter.
  - District 4, Supervisor Wong: Commissioner Rusanoff met with District 4 staff to discuss structural discrimination in San Francisco with veterans using their VA home loans. He proposed Supervisor Wong generate legislation that would require all new HOAs to be in compliance with VA home loans. Supervisor Wong is waiting on a report with a formalize proposal. Commissioner Rusanoff will keep the commission updated.
  - District 8, Supervisor Mandelman: Commissioner Dacumos contacted District 8 office with her concerns about scams happening within the district's area that target elderly and veteran populations. The commissioner was connected with an SFPD officer who explained this is a very difficult issue because it is pervasive and hard to stop. Challenge for financial institutions is determining if request for funds is part of a scam or a real emergency. Commission Dacumos will look into this further and follow up with the police officer.



- Reviewed draft letter to Board of Supervisors with updated information about the veteran housing priority for inclusion in Supervisors' newsletters. Commissioner Perez led discussion. [ACTION]
  - Commissioner Perez noted she and Commissioner Rusanoff visited most of the supervisors' offices to let them know a letter will be sent with updated information about the veteran priority in the City's BMR housing lottery. Commissioner Perez shared updated housing statistics. A motion was called to approve sending the letter to Supervisors:
  - Motion / Second / All in Favor
  - Commission secretary will send letter to each district supervisor office.

Absent: Kutovaya

- Continuing discussion regarding recommendations of the Commission Streamlining Task Force. Review and approve a letter drafted by Commissioner Perez. Commissioner Perez led discussion. [ACTION]
  - Commissioner Perez referenced the updated version of the letter to send to supervisors, noting the previous letter was six pages and new version is a one page letter. Commissioners discussed importance of preserving the name, "Veterans Affairs Commission" and rejecting recommendation by the Streamlining Task Force to change to, "Veterans Affairs Council." Commissioners were encouraged to give public comment at the upcoming BoS Rules Committee as a whole meeting on Tuesday, March 17 at 3:00pm (During the regular Board of Supervisors meeting.) After discussion, a motion was called to approve sending the letter:
  - Motion / Second / All in Favor
  - Commission secretary will send letter to each district supervisor office.

Absent: Kutovaya

## **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**

- No announcements.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A former commissioner expressed appreciation for the work of the Commission and offered continued support.

## **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.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Vice-President Hanley Chan read a Resolution to honor the service and sacrifice of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert M. Marzan. Officer Marzan, a resident of Sacramento, California, was killed during a drone attack on a United States military facility in Kuwait on March 1, 2026. [Resolution is attached.]

Commissioner Nicholas Rusanoff read additional names of service members killed in Iran war:

Captain Cody A. Khork, 35, of Winter Haven, Florida  
Sergeant First Class Noah L. Tietjens, 42, of Bellevue, Nebraska  
Sergeant First Class Nicole M. Amor, 39 of White Bear Lake, Minnesota  
Sergeant Declan J. Coady, 20 of West De Moines, Iowa  
Major Jeffrey R. O'Brien, 45 of Waukee, Iowa  
Staff Sergeant Benjamin N. Pennington, 26 of Glendale, Kentucky

This meeting is dedicated in memory and honor of these fallen United States service members.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by President Barnickel at 7:48pm.

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, April 14, 2026.**



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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy  
Commission Secretary  
Veterans Affairs Commission

[Attachment: Resolution in honor of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert M. Marzan]

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## **San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission**

### **Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert M. Marzan, age 54, of Sacramento, California, served honorably in the United States Army Reserve and dedicated his life to the service and defense of the United States of America; and  
WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marzan was assigned to the 103rd Sustainment Command, contributing to vital logistics and sustainment operations that support U.S. military missions and the safety of service members deployed around the world; and  
WHEREAS, on March 1, 2026, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marzan was killed in the line of duty during a drone attack on a United States military facility in Kuwait amid escalating hostilities involving Iran; and  
WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marzan was among a group of six United States service members who became the first Americans killed in the conflict with Iran, demonstrating the



ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation and its values; and  
WHEREAS, his courage, dedication, and commitment to duty represent  
the highest traditions  
of the United States Armed Forces and embody the spirit of service that  
inspires generations  
of Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco  
Veterans Affairs Commission

does hereby adjourn its meeting on March 10, 2026, in honor and  
memory of Chief Warrant

Officer 3 Robert M. Marzan, whose service and sacrifice will never be  
forgotten; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission extends its deepest  
condolences to the

family, friends, and fellow service members of Chief Warrant Officer 3  
Marzan, and expresses

its enduring gratitude for his service to the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Francisco Veterans Affairs  
Commission observes

a moment of silence in solemn remembrance of Chief Warrant Officer 3  
Robert M. Marzan

and all United States service members who have given their lives in  
defense of our nation.

**Adopted by the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission on  
March 10, 2026.**



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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, 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 SFVAC meetings (and archived meeting minutes) are available on the SFVAC 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.

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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.

1700 Harrison Street, San Francisco, California 94102-4689

Veterans Affairs Commission



City and County of San Francisco

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



SUICIDE  
PREVENTION

24/7 Confidential  
Support

Text [MYLIFE](#) to [741741](#)  
Crisis Line:  
(415) 781-0500