

Kenneth Osborn, Chair  
Antawnette Atkins Blade, Vice Chair  
Juanita Doplemore, Commissioner



James Goodin, Commissioner  
James Schotter, Commissioner  
Nicholas Sramek, Commissioner

## **FINISHED AGENDA & DRAFT MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Atkins Blade called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Goodin, Osborn, Doplemore, Sramek, Atkins Blade, Schotter

Also present: Gina Overholt, Coordinator.

Also in attendance: Ryan Antes, Shawn Jones, Steve Hageman, and John Donnigan.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Schotter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. 25-54962 Recommendation to approve the minutes for the Veterans Affairs Commission meeting of Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Doplemore, seconded by Commissioner Schotter, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 6** Goodin, Osborn, Doplemore, Sramek, Atkins Blade, Schotter  
**No: 0** None  
**Recused: 0** None  
**Abstain: 0** None  
**Absent: 0** None

2. 25-54963 Recommendation to receive and file a discussion on a Veterans and Service Members Job Fair on April 17.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Doplemore, seconded by**

**Commissioner Sramek, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 6** Goodin, Osborn, Doplemore, Sramek, Atkins Blade, Schotter  
**No: 0** None  
**Recused: 0** None  
**Abstain: 0** None  
**Absent: 0** None

Staff shared the details on the upcoming Veteran and Service Member Job Fair, a collaboration between Health (Office of Veterans Support) and Economic Development (Workforce Innovation Network), led by Health Department Public Service Fellow Alexandria O' Board. Commissioners were invited to attend and to promote the event to their contacts. The Job Fair includes 20 employers, six service providers (e.g. housing assistance, mental health, health care), and three workshops: an LBPD recruitment and Q & A, financial education and navigating the VA home loan process. It also includes a resume bar, lunch, while supplies last, professional head shots and more. Commissioners were invited to attend the event as well as volunteer.

3. 25-54964 Recommendation to receive and file a discussion on the Veterans Banner Program.

Chair of the Veterans Banner subcommittee and staff liaison reported on project progress. Nearly 150 nominations were received, the breakdown of nominees by service branch, race, ethnicity and other demographics were shared. The subcommittee selected three locations for the banners, Long Beach Airport/Lakewood Blvd. (between Conant and Spring St.), VA Long Beach (between Bellflower Blvd. & 7th St.) and St. Mary's Hospital (Atlantic Ave. between 8th & 11th). The Commission approved the proposed banner locations.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Osborn, seconded by Commissioner Sramek, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 6** Goodin, Osborn, Doplemore, Sramek, Atkins Blade, Schotter  
**No: 0** None  
**Recused: 0** None  
**Abstain: 0** None  
**Absent: 0** None

4. 25-54965 Recommendation to receive and file a presentation from the Community Crisis

Response Team.

Community Crisis Response Program Manager Anthony Montalvo presented on the Community Crisis Response Team, which provides an alternative (non-law enforcement) emergency response to eligible non-violent 911 calls-for-service with a focus on behavioral health and quality of life issues. Approximately five percent of the nearly 600 clients responded to by the CCR team (through December 2024) were Veterans. Commissioners are invited to attend the event as well as volunteer.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Sramek, seconded by Commissioner Goodin, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 Goodin, Osborn, Doplemore, Sramek, Atkins Blade, Schotter  
**No:** 0 None  
**Recused:** 0 None  
**Abstain:** 0 None  
**Absent:** 0 None

5. 25-54966 Recommendation to receive and file a discussion on USS Frank E. Evans and the Lost 74 commemoration on June 3.

Staff reported on ongoing planning for this event, a collaboration between USS Frank E. Evans Association and the Office of Veterans Support to commemorate the Evans and the upcoming renaming of the 710/PCH junction and adjacent bridge for USS Frank E. Evans Lost 74, celebrate our city's naval history, and observe Memorial Day. The Port of Long Beach is lead sponsor. The media release draft is moving through the City approvals process. Commissioners are invited to attend the event as well as serve as volunteers, helping with event promotion, set-up, clean-up and staffing the OVS information booth.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Osborn, seconded by Commissioner Doplemore, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 Goodin, Osborn, Doplemore, Sramek, Atkins Blade, Schotter  
**No:** 0 None  
**Recused:** 0 None  
**Abstain:** 0 None  
**Absent:** 0 None

6. 25-54967 Recommendation to receive and file a discussion on changes to Chapter 2.60 of the Long Beach Municipal Code related to the Veterans Affairs Commission.

Ensuring quorum for Commission meetings is increasingly challenging. Commissioners who stepped down in June because they had already served four consecutive terms have not been easily replaced because of the one Commissioner per Council district requirement. Accordingly, a motion was initially made to consider reducing the number of Commissioners to seven and to relinquish the requirement that there be one Commissioner per Council district but instead stipulate that there be no more than two Commissioners from a single district on the Commission. Because so much of the Commission's work is carried out by subcommittees and we just learned that these subcommittees may only be composed of members of the Commission, a revised motion was proposed to keep the number of Commissioners at nine and stipulate that there be no more than two Commissioners from a single Council district.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Osborn, seconded by Commissioner Doplemore, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 Goodin, Osborn, Doplemore, Sramek, Atkins Blade, Schotter  
**No:** 0 None  
**Recused:** 0 None  
**Abstain:** 0 None  
**Absent:** 0 None

7. 25-54968 Recommendation to receive and file a discussion on a recommendation to Council in support of keeping Long Beach Veterans Administration funding and jobs intact.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Atkins Blade, seconded by Commissioner Doplemore, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 Goodin, Osborn, Doplemore, Sramek, Atkins Blade, Schotter  
**No:** 0 None  
**Recused:** 0 None  
**Abstain:** 0 None  
**Absent:** 0 None

Commission discussed creating a letter of support or a resolution wherein the Commission would make a statement in support of the LB VA that Council would approve and submit to the federal government.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Hageman shared that architectural plans and planning approval for 1400 Cherry should be in place by end of April. He is interested in making this an agenda item for the Commission's

consideration in May.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Staff shared information on the US VETS 5K event on May 25. Future agenda items: same subjects as on 25-54966, 25-54967 and 25-54967, plus 1400 Cherry presentation by Hageman.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Osborn adjourned meeting at 6:46 p.m.