



**CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
VETERANS COMMUNITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES**

August 28, 2024
5:00 p.m., Council Chambers
2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Website - <http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com>

CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Jackie Rodgers called the meeting into order at 5:00 P.M.

WELCOME

City Clerk Jackie Rodgers welcomed all who were attending the meeting.

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Dan Kamaao
Jimmy Vega
Marvin Parker
Marie Holcomb
Phillip Allen (Absent)

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Deputy City Attorney Noel Eidsmore
Community Services and Engagement Director Wilson Ramos
City Clerk Jackie Rodgers
Chief Deputy City Clerk Cherry Lawson
Deputy City Clerk Isabel Rodriguez

VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW

City Clerk, Jackie Rodgers confirmed compliance with Open Meeting Law.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - BY INVITATION

Led by **Commissioner Holcomb**

PUBLIC FORUM

City Clerk, Jackie Rodgers opened the meeting to receive public comments. No comments offered.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Veterans Community Commission to Elect from its Membership a Chairperson. (For Possible Action; Recommendation – Appoint)

MOTION: *Commissioner Vega moved and Commissioner Kamaao second to Appoint Marie Holcomb as Chairperson.*

ACTION: APPROVED

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

2. Veterans Community Commission to Elect from its Membership a Vice Chairperson. (For Possible Action; Recommendation – Appoint)

MOTION: *Commissioner Holcomb moved and Commissioner Kamaao second to Appoint Jimmy Vega as Vice Chairperson.*

ACTION: APPROVED

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

AGENDA

3. Veterans Community Commission Regular Meeting of August 28, 2024. (For Possible Action; Recommendation – Approve)

MOTION: *Commissioner Kamanao moved and Vice Chair Vega second to approve the agenda as published.*

ACTION: APPROVED

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Veterans Community Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2024. (For Possible Action; Recommendation – Approve)

MOTION: *Commissioner Kamanao moved and Vice Chair Vega second to approve the Consent Agenda.*

ACTION: APPROVED

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

BUSINESS

5. Review of Veterans Community Commission By-Laws. (For Discussion Only)

Chief Deputy City Attorney Noel Eidsmore and City Clerk Jackie Rodgers discussed the importance of the Nevada Open Meeting Law and clarified what a quorum is and what type of discussions could occur.

Vice Chair Vega asked if an addendum could be added to the committee by-laws to allow for donations. **Chief Deputy City Attorney Noel Eidsmore** advised the committee to request City Council to agendize the setting up of a fund for veteran's issues or a veteran's Christmas donation. **Community Services and Engagement Director Wilson Ramos** commented that many of the non-profits his team works with collect and disseminate donated funds to veterans in need as well.

ACTION: DISCUSSED

6. Introduction of New Veterans Community Commission Member, Dr. Marvin Parker.
(For Discussion Only)

Member Parker introduced himself and gave a brief history of qualifications. **Community Services and Engagement Director Wilson Ramos** welcomed Member Parker to the committee.

ACTION: INTRODUCED

7. Discussion of 2024 Thanksgiving Turkey Drive in November. (For Discussion Only)

Vice Chair Vega stated that approximately 32 turkeys were accepted in 2023 and asked if the City could provide a couple of freezers in the Veteran Resource Center for storage until the turkeys could be handed out. **Community Services and Engagement Director Wilson Ramos** stated that space was limited in the Veteran Resource Center; however, he will work with a third-party non-profit to allocate space. **Chairwoman Holcomb** suggested offering gift cards instead of turkeys or in addition to turkeys' this year and Vice Chair Vega agreed.

ACTION: DISCUSSED

8. Discussion of 2024 Operation North Las Vegas GI Family Christmas in December.
(For Discussion Only)

Vice Chair Vega stated this event would be the same as last year with gift collection occurring on December 22, a wrapping party on December 23, and gift delivery on December 24 by chartering a bus. He would like create a committee to go into the community to see what items are actually needed. **Member Parker** asked for clarification of how the needs of the GI families are conveyed and how the items are delivered. **Community Services and Engagement Director Wilson Ramos** stated that VCC operates outside of a quorum and they are able to assist in communications with the Air Force Base.

ACTION: DISCUSSED

9. Discussion on the North Las Vegas Veterans Court to Include How Many Veterans Have Been Accepted Into North Las Vegas Veterans Court, How Many Graduated and the Need for Mentors. (For Discussion Only)

Chairwoman Holcomb stated that she is working with the Veterans Court to determine the number of veterans who accepted entry and the number that have graduated and are in need of a mentor. She feels this commission can be helpful in finding mentors. **Member Parker** asked for clarification on what the Veterans Court is and **Chairwoman Holcomb** stated that she can have a representative from one of the courts come to a Commission meeting and share what it entails.

Member Kamanao shared that he was a Veterans Court Mentor in Henderson for four years and was asked to take over and start the program in Las Vegas where he served as a mentor for two years.

ACTION: DISCUSSED

10. Discussion on Veterans Day Parade 2024 to Include the City of North Las Vegas Participation Once Again. (For Discussion Only)

Chairwoman Holcomb stated **Veteran Services Coordinator Walter Lescano** has the details and she will work with him to coordinate the event. The parade will either be on Veterans Day or the day before. **Community Services and Engagement Director Wilson Ramos** shared that the National Guard offered a float and that Aetna approved the t-shirts.

ACTION: DISCUSSED

11. Discussion on Veterans Community Commission Participation at the YMCA Back to School Event that Took Place on Saturday, August 3, 2024. (For Discussion Only)

Chairwoman Holcomb shared that there was close to a thousand students at the event and Commission ran out of school supplies due to the large number of participants, but it was good event and she suggested doing it again next year.

ACTION: DISCUSSED

12. Discussion on the North Las Vegas Point In Time Count to Include Veterans Community Commission. (For Discussion Only)

Chairwoman Holcomb shared the Point-In-Time Count is conducted once a year and counts the number of homeless veterans in the state to determine the type of services should be offered. She asked that members of the Commission and veterans help with the count. **Member Parker** asked for clarification on how volunteers are collected for the count and **Community Services and Engagement Director Wilson Ramos** shared that his team operates the volunteerism and is in the process of revamping their webpage and putting out press releases with volunteer activities. He also stated that hygiene bags are provided during the counts.

Member Kamanao discussed the need to wear comfortable clothing during the count. He also shared that a veteran determination will be made, and that police officers will be present to accompany count teams.

Member Kamanao also shared that if Mr. Ramos' team has enough volunteers that the VA Hospital is always in of need volunteers.

ACTION: DISCUSSED

STAFF COMMENTS

No comments offered.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Member Kamanao asked if there was any way to have more engagement with the veteran community in the Committee meetings. **Mr. Ramos** stated that as more community events occur, more community members would participate in Committee meetings.

Chairwoman Holcomb welcomed **Member Parker** and stated as Chair she looks forward to doing great things with the Commission and getting the public more involved.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chairwoman Holcomb opened the meeting to receive public comments. No comments offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Holcomb adjourned the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:46 P.M.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing are true and correct minutes of the City of North Las Vegas Veterans Community Commission Regular Meeting held on August 28, 2024. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Jackie Rodgers, City Clerk