



COMMISSION FOR VETERANS
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
6420 ALLENTOWN ROAD
CAMP SPRINGS, MD 20748



The November 4, 2019 meeting was held at the Department of Family Services in Camp Springs, MD.

The mission of the Commission is to evaluate the needs of county veterans and their families against the programs and services offered within Prince George's County, and to promote the development or expansion of programs and services when a need is identified.

Meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. (There was an accident on Allentown Rd)

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Excused absences: Commissioners Dickens, Hollis and new Commissioner Sligh.

Chair Jewitt asked the guests to please sign in so we can email the updates and meeting locations as they are subject to change.

Chair Jewitt announced that Commissioner Trulesta Pauling's term has ended. Chair Jewitt recognized her dedication to improving the lives of Veterans in Prince George's County, and although she is moving on she will always be remembered for her contributions to the Commission.

Commissioner Pauling offered comments. She enjoyed her 3-year term and seeing the small changes made by the Commission and backs the County Executive's vision 100%. She thanked the commissioners for their friendship and said to stay on track.

Chair Jewitt also recognized three other Commissioners whose terms are ending. Commissioners Hendricks-Roach, Nordhorn, and Watson. He highlighted their work on the Commission and with the subcommittees. He was saddened that they were not at the meeting as he had a small token of appreciation for them.

Minutes were approved. Motion by Martel and seconded by Jewitt.

VeteransCommission@co.pg.md.us

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/709/Commission-for-Veterans>



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Chair Jewitt asked two of the new commissioners to join the others at the table.

New Commissioner Lewis stated she was anxious to work with the committee. New Commissioner Alston stated she is committed to assisting veterans. The Commission welcomed them.

Chair Jewitt explained that the Commission should get out into the community and become force multipliers for County Executive and Veterans Affairs Office especially in areas of:

Homelessness and Housing

Workforce

Healthcare and Suicide Education & Prevention

Quality of Life

Public Outreach

Community Relations

Chair Jewitt highlighted the successful Veterans Resource Fair on 10/19/19 and thanked Serving Together and all the volunteers who assisted. Over 100 people attended. He also thanked Commissioners Martel, Hollis and Parker for attending the Standdown event on 11/2/2019.

Dr. Dula detailed his meetings over the last month and that veterans continue to visit him in his office for assistance. He welcomed the three new commissioners. He again highlighted that the Census 2020 is coming and every veteran needs to be counted. Commissioner Dickens is in the 2020 team. He noted that a new CBOC is coming to PG County but the location is still pending. A decision has not been made by the County Executive's office concerning the donation of funds to the Korean Wall Memorial as recommended by the Commission. Dr. Dula hopes to fill the vacant positions of the Commission by the end of the January.

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Old Business:

Charter currently has a vacant Commissioner position for the Army Women's Air Corps which is not an organization. The Commission can make a recommendation to the County Executive on how to fill.

Commissioner Martel has thoroughly researched for a Women's Veteran's organization and has yet to find one in the mid- Atlantic region.

Chair Jewitt will author a letter to the County Executive suggesting making the position at large with a focus on women veterans issues and concerns.

Dr. Dula will try to get business cards for the commissioners. Commissioners will need to use their own email address.

New Business:

Chair Jewitt informed the commissioner that the acting secretary will end her time after the January meeting. Dr, Dula has not been able to identify a Secretary. If a new secretary can not be found, Chair Jewitt will assign the duties of the secretary to a different commissioner each month.

Commissioner Martel suggested another retreat. The last was December 2018. Chair Jewitt suggested waiting until the remaining new commissioners are identified.

The Commission needs to have a conversation on how to define a veteran as the Commission is out of compliance with US and MD code. According to US Code, there are 7 uniformed services recognized as veterans and the County is only recognizing 5.

Announcements:

Greenbelt Post 136 will host Wills for Hereos on 11/16. It is suggested to make an appointment.

Trulesta Pauling stated that Reid Temple in Glen Dale will host a Small Business Symposium on 11/8.

Citizen Comments:

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Commander Boyd from Post 7757 highlighted the Buddy Poppy's Fun Drive on 11/9. All proceeds go to disabled veterans.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Martel and seconded by Commissioner Alston.

Meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Jewitt

Acting Secretary

Total guests: 5

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