

ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS



MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, 1 November 2016
11th floor, Room 1112
441 4th Street NW/One Judiciary Square
Washington DC 20001
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

- I. Called to Order** by Chairman Wingo at 1838
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Advisory Board Members Roll Call**
 - A) Voting Members Present (11): Wingo (chair), Dalzell (Secretary), Curry, Dier, Giancola, Khan, Lampkin, Mack, Moore, White, Williams
 - B) Voting Members Absent (9): Black, Harrison, Kamara, McLendon, Locks (Parliamentarian), Patterson, Scott, Sydnor, Wynn
 - C) Deployed: Pridemore (vice-chair)
 - D) Ex-officio members present (0): None
 - E) Ex-officio members absent (2): Preston, Treadwell
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - A) October minutes were approved with amendment to specify that no quorum was present.
- V. Director's Report**
 - A) Director Ross reported on MOVA's activities over the last month and to follow-up on some of the issues/questions the Board had at our last meeting.
 - B) Lots of positive meetings, met with four transitional houses,
 - 1. Highlighted an event where one of his new staff members, Carol, learned veterans at one house said they had nothing to do, and she was able to get them tickets to a Capitals game.
 - 2. Mr. Ross has met with four university veteran-services offices. Vet student groups appreciate the reaching out to them, the opening of a pipeline to them, opportunity to build support links.
 - 3. He is also meeting with DC government offices – five so far.
 - 4. He has developed a yearlong strategic plan, which he will share once it is approved.

5. Went to a White House meeting where DC HHS was present, and he learned we are below 300 homeless vets, below 1% based on 2000 census data. He has a follow-on meeting with HHS scheduled.
- C) Tynisha has been promoted to take over as Ward 6 liaison; her last day in OVA is Veterans Day, then he will begin the process to replace her
- D) His confirmation hearing is November 10 at 1pm before city council. He would like board to attend and show their support.
- E) Other items asked about in October meeting:
1. If members are having trouble with DCBC emails, give him their account names; if you get a temporary password, you have 24 hours to act or it expires.
 2. He has a Google calendar with his meeting schedule, and board members are invited to attend any of them -- just coordinate with the OVA.
 - a. The calendar won't accept official government emails or yahoo accounts. Give Mr. Mack your email if you haven't been electronically invited.
 3. Have estimates for the number of veterans in the DC government.
 - a. 405 employees with veterans preference – less than 1% of employees.
 - b. Is meeting with director of HR, a Navy veteran, to discuss the situation
 - i. She had actually reached out to volunteer for events
 - c. May be low because some veterans don't claim preference when applying.
 4. Stats on DC jobless vets may be low due to small sample size.
 5. He has received two proposed resolutions from Mr. Khan, will forward to legislative team, expect success.
- F) Veterans Day and MOVA's planned events.
1. Nov 8: Work in transitional houses in SE DC; will share update and invite
 2. Nov 9: Speaking at UDC Veterans Day event, 10am-Noon, with reception at student center. UDC president will be there.
 - a. Doesn't know number of veterans at UDC, needs to meet with them still
 3. Nov 10:
 - a. DC Housing Authority for Veterans Day stand down, a number of vets working through HA to set up booth to share info as resource
 - b. Small business event at Dogtag Bakery; have two yearly fellowship cohorts, classes at GWU, would like someone from staff there
 - c. Brightwood school event – music teacher found students couldn't say what military does, so asked for volunteers to come to school. Mr. Locks has said he'd be there. Would like one member from each service – no need to be in uniform, but would be a plus. Let him know if we're available
 - i. School is Pre-K3 to 8th grade
 - ii. Would like a 3-4 minute talk from each if possible
 - iii. Wingo – could also pitch the service academies (possible handouts from Rep. Holmes Norton?)

4. 11 Nov 11:11am – Mayor speaking at Armed Forces Retirement Home
 - a. Mr. Ross will be there by 8; is in front of the main hall
 - b. Notify him in advance so you can get through security

VI. Special Guests: None

VII. Committee Reports

A) Economic resiliency

1. Start using the calendar, the website slowly getting more info on the website
 - a. Mr. Williams has provided more data.
2. Draft letters for Ross and Wingo to sign.
 - a. Goal is to develop a database of POCs within DC departments.
 - b. The board discussed who should sign the letters, the OVA Director or the Board Chairman. Consensus was to go with Wingo letter.
 - c. Give Mr. Wingo feedback so he can finalize it.

B) Education – wants to reach out to local universities on their programs, Ch31 rehab, what other programs are being used and the nature of their veteran population

1. Director got the handoff from Victoria, and will start incorporating them in the meeting with university offices and groups.
2. UDC's veterans office director is very new, but Mr. Ross thinks they'll be able to have lots of cooperation.
 - a. Mr. Wingo noted that UDC has lots of alumni, and they are getting more active.

C) Homelessness

1. The committee only has one member on committee from outside board, has been reaching out to VA hospital and other community groups
2. Suggested to Mr. Ross that they have a meeting in one of the rooms at the VA Hospital as a chance to hear from veterans where they are
3. Ely has a meeting with Mr. Hawkins on 16th, and another one on related issues (date TBD) at CRRC

D) Incarcerated

1. Focus on legislation that would recognize veterans wounded or with bronze star with a special license plate.
 - a. There was a side discussion on the existing license plate and the process for groups to propose new ones. There's a limit of 300 plates under the existing veterans – but only 45 requests for that tag in the past year
 - b. Public doesn't understand what the money is for, which could be changed with better messaging.
 - c. The process can also be complicated, and dealers may not be well informed about it.

E) Homelessness

1. Mr. Dier has met with director to discuss ideas.
2. Have discussed automating some of the website to promote programs

3. 2014 census said there are 30,000 total vets in DC; Mr. Ross wants to get more robust data.

F) Government Affairs

1. Mr. Khan had drafted two resolutions before committee was formed: A Veterans Hall of Fame and automatic SSA registration, These were apparently “lost in transit” within the government. He has sent them back to Mr. Ross and is trying to clarify the procedure for working these items. Mr. Ross expect to get a response on the proposals after the Nov. 14th
2. Mr. Khan also wants to research what other states are doing,

VIII. Old Business (Chairman)

A) Naming of an interim vice chair

1. There were no volunteers for the position.
2. If interested, members are asked to send an email to Mr. Wingo.

IX. New Business (Chairman)

A) Mr. Wingo wants to start drafting a report to the mayor on board activities; need to lead with the numbers that reflect where things stand and what the city needs.

1. He asked each committee to send 2-3 paragraphs on their area in the next two weeks.
2. What are the ten most important numbers that we need to know?

B) Mr. Wingo shared that he had contacted the Mayor’s office and asked to stand down as chair, due to time commitments of his new job teaching cyber security at the National Defense University.

X. Public Comment (Maximum 2 minute per person)

A) Andre Tallmer introduced himself as a new resident of Ward 8 and retired USCG.

XI. Upcoming (Events/Meetings/Holidays): See above

XII. Adjournment at 1939. Next meeting will be December 6th.