

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: El Paso International Airport/ Veteran and Military Affairs

AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2021

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Sam Rodriguez, Director of Aviation, 212-7301, RodriguezS3@elpasotexas.gov
Paul Albright, 212-1654, albrightPD@elpasotexas.gov

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Discussion and action to adopt changes to the Resolution establishing the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, adopted by Council on May 5, 2015, was due to sunset on December 31, 2020. Council voted on November 7, 2020 to extend the committee until December 31, 2028. Unfortunately, the November resolution has errors that require an amendment. The errors found include an inadequate explanation of the purpose of the committee, incomplete qualifications for the selection of committee members, an inadequate description of the duties of the VAAC Secretary, no inclusion for the extension of terms toward the current VAAC members and no direction for the committee to establish a strategic plan.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

May 5th, 2015 Council established the Veteran Affairs Advisory committee.
November 10, 2020 Council voted to extend the VAAC with a new sunset date of December 31, 2028.
November 10th 2020 Council voted to extend term limits to 4 years for appointed committee members as a part of the adopted resolution.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee voted unanimously to have an amended resolution presented to council for approval on April 16, 2021.

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD:  _____
Sam Rodriguez, Director of Aviation, Chief Operations & Transportation Officer

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2015, the El Paso City Council (“City Council”) enacted a Resolution establishing a Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (“VAAC”) for the purpose of advising the City of El Paso on matters related to providing assistance to Veterans (“Enabling Resolution”);

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020, the City Council approved an amendment to the Enabling Resolution increasing committee terms to four years and adding a sunset clause (“First Amendment”);

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2021 the VAAC voted to recommend to City Council that the Enabling Resolution be amended a second time to, among other changes, revise membership requirements and clarify that current members of the committee shall serve four-year terms (“Second Amendment”);

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees with the recommendations of the VAAC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That the recital paragraphs are revised as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is home to Fort Bliss military installation and has a large military veteran population (“Veterans”); and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso seeks to create a Veteran ready community that provides Veterans with the resources necessary to achieve a quality of life that is worth the honor of their service.

2. That when the words “veteran” or “veterans” are used in the Enabling Resolution or First Amendment, the words shall be capitalized as “Veteran” or “Veterans”.
3. That Paragraph 1 (A) is revised as follows:

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) shall consist of nine members appointed by the Mayor and each City Council Representative. The persons appointed to this Committee must be a Veteran, the spouse of a Veteran, or the spouse of a military service member and should have an interest in improving the everyday life of our Veterans.

4. That Paragraph 2 is revised as follows:

- A. Each member of the City Council shall nominate one member to the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee. The terms of office shall be for four years. Appointments to vacancies that occur other than by expiration of a member's term of office shall be filled by appointment by the Mayor and City Council for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. The term of each member currently serving on the Committee as of the date of this Second Amendment shall be four years. This four-year term shall be computed beginning from the date the member was appointed to their current term.
- B. The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee shall annually select from among its appointed members a Chair, Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. The Committee shall adopt such rules and regulations for the government of its proceedings as may be deemed proper, not inconsistent with the ordinances and the Charter of the City and the laws of the State of Texas.
- C. A quorum of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee shall be the majority of the total number of the members who have been appointed by City Council at the time of the meeting; provided however that a quorum shall not be less than five. The Chair shall have a vote in all matters. No final action shall be taken on any matter except pursuant to a simple majority vote of members present.

5. That Paragraph 3 is revised to add subparagraph (F) as follows:

- F. Develop a five-year strategic plan to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis that will include priorities and goals designed to alleviate the needs of Veterans and improve their quality of life. The plan will align with the strategic goals of the City.

6. Except as amended herein, the Enabling Resolution and First Amendment remain in full force and effect.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

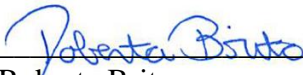
THE CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

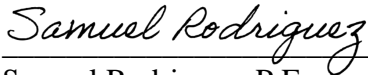
Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Roberta Brito
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Samuel Rodriguez, P.E.
Director of Aviation