



## **AGENDA FOR THE VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

---

**September 18, 2025  
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, 300 NORTH CAMPBELL – 2ND FLOOR  
10:00 AM**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee will be conducted on the above date and time.

In compliance with the requirement that the City provide two-way communication for members of the public, members of the public may communicate with the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee during public comment, and regarding agenda items by calling the following number:

1-915-213-4096 or Toll Free Number: 1-833-664-9267

**At the prompt please enter the corresponding Phone ID: 137 254 606#**

If you wish to sign up to speak please contact Paul Albright at [AlbrightPD@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:AlbrightPD@elpasotexas.gov) or (915) 212-1447 no later than by the start of the meeting.

**A quorum of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee members must be present and participate in the meeting.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **AGENDA**

1. Roll Call. [BC-1177](#)
2. Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of: August 21, 2025. [BC-1183](#)
3. Citizen Comment Period: Individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken. [BC-1186](#)

4. El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update. [BC-1187](#)
5. El Paso County Update - Veterans Assistance Program. [BC-1188](#)
6. Discussion: Community update, 346th District Court, Yvonne Whitaker, Veterans Treatment Court Program Director. [BC-1189](#)
7. Discussion: Community update, Aquatic Adventures LCC, Michael Robison. [BC-1190](#)
8. Discussion: Monthly Update from VAAC Sub Committees Chairs.  
Employment  
Homelessness.  
Mental Health [BC-1191](#)
9. Discussion: Citywide Veteran Discount Program. [BC-1192](#)
10. Discussion: Guidance for annual update to council. [BC-1193](#)
11. Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update. [BC-1194](#)
12. Announcements: Limited to Veteran and Military events pertinent to the El Paso Region. [BC-1195](#)
13. Discussion on proposed agenda items for next meeting. [BC-1196](#)

### **ADJOURN**

### **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

Sign language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Requests must be made to Paul Albright at [AlbrightPD@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:AlbrightPD@elpasotexas.gov) a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of this hearing.

If you need Spanish Translation Services, please email [AlbrightPD@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:AlbrightPD@elpasotexas.gov) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Posted this the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM by \_\_\_\_\_



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #: BC-1177, Version: 1**

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS  
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

Roll Call.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1183, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of: August 21, 2025.



# Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Minutes

---

**May 15, 2025 Microsoft Teams Live**

**Streamed via City's website:**

**<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>**

**Television on City 15**

**YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>**

## **MINUTES**

### **Members Present**

Ron Jackson

George Elsaesser

James Green

Melissa Harcrow

Ruben Ramirez

1. **Call to Order.** 10:05 AM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call.** 5 of 9 - Quorum met.
4. **Discussion and Action:** To approve the minutes of April 17, 2025, Motion and second.  
Approved
5. **Citizen Comment Period:** Dave Garcia (Disabled American Veterans) – requested City letter of support for Texas Comptroller's \$50 million reimbursement to counties for 100% disabled-veteran property-tax losses. Mariana Reyes (Simplicity Homecare for Veterans) – announced 15 % "Dine -to-Donate" fundraiser 20 May 2025 at Union Draft House benefitting Borderplex Veterans Coalition.
6. **El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update – Mr. Enriquez**
  - a. Clinic operations unchanged under new federal executive orders.
  - b. 24-hour VA Health Connect nurse line: 1-800-672-3782 (opt 3).
  - c. Whole Health program overview; contact 915-564-6100.
  - d. Reminder to renew 10-year VA ID cards.
  - e. 2025 Summer Youth Volunteer Program (ages 15-18), application deadline 29 May.
  - f. Women Veterans Boutique – accepting donations through 12 June.
  - g. VA 2K "Walk & Roll" for homeless veterans – 21 May, 11 AM-1 PM, WBAMC track.
7. **El Paso County Update – Mike Barnes**
  - a. Veteran-of-the-Year nomination rubric in development; online resource guide nearing completion.
  - b. Recap of "Veterans at the Park" family day at Ascarate Park (free, donor-funded).
  - c. Planning continues for future outreach events.
8. **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Update – Ashley Lamel, Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP)**
  - a. Reviewed VHA Directive 1198 (2019, updated 2024) establishing IPVAP.
  - b. Shared risk statistics, health impacts, and services (screening,



# Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

## Minutes

---

safety-planning, referrals).

- c. **Highlighted Strength-at-Home group (veterans who use IPV) beginning 3 June and RISE individual therapy (veterans who experience IPV).**
- d. **Hotlines: National DV 1-800-799-SAFE, Veterans Crisis Line 988 Press 1.**

### 9. **Monthly Subcommittee Updates:**

- a. **Employment:** Partnering with Texas Veterans Commission & Western Tech to host trades-focused job fair later this year. Tracking federal & Texas legislation on veteran/spouse employment & childcare.
- b. **Homelessness:** No report given- Chair absent.
- c. **Mental Health:** No report given- Chair absent.

### 10. **Discussion on Annual Council Update Presentation:**

- a. Target date for presentation to City Council moved to 18 August 2025 to allow refinement.
- b. Possibility of special VAAC work session in July to finalize content.

### 11. **Discussion / Action on Member Absences**

- a. Melissa Harcrow – motion to excuse (Juarez), approved 5-0.
- b. Donald Brown – motion to excuse failed; absence recorded as unexcused.

### 12. **Veterans and Military Affairs Division Update – Luther Jones (for CMO Paul Albright)**

- a. City leadership attending Fort Bliss Town/Base Summit with Command group & Mayor.
- b. Memorial Day ceremony at Concordia Cemetery – 26 May, 10 AM.
- c. City collecting canned goods for September Homeless Veteran Stand-Down.
- d. El Paso becomes first municipality to join national Face the Fight veteran-suicide-prevention coalition; first coalition meeting 4 June.
- e. Women Veterans Month (June) – supporting multiple events 11-14 June.
- f. City coordinating summer point-in-time count for homeless veterans (Aug/Sept).
- g. Introduced James Green as new VAC District 4 representative (sworn in).

### 13. **Announcements:**

- a. **West-Side “Vets at Breakfast” (4th Tuesday of the month, 4825 Doniphan).**
- b. **Coffee with Veterans – 5 June, 8:30-10:30 AM, American Legion Post 36.**
- c. **Women Veterans Week events:**
  - 11 Jun 11:30 AM – Amistad Women Veteran Luncheon.
  - 11 Jun 7 PM – Wreath Laying, Old Glory Memorial.
  - 12 Jun 9:30 AM – VA Women Veterans Recognition Ceremony.
  - 12 Jun 11 AM – Senator Blanco Women Veterans Honors, EPCC.
  - 14 Jun 7 AM – “Take a Walk in Her Boots” 5K, Old Glory.
- d. **Memorial Day and VA 2K flyers distributed.**

### 14. **Future Agenda Items**

- a. A proposal was made to add James Green (District 4) to one of the



# Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Minutes

---

existing subcommittees. This will be reviewed and considered as a future agenda item.

**15. Next VAAC Meeting:** *No regular meeting in June (Juneteenth holiday).*

Next scheduled meeting: **Thursday, July 17, 2025**, 10:00 AM MDT hybrid- in person.

**16. Adjourn.** 11:17 AM.

**Approved By:**

---



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1186, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

Citizen Comment Period: Individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken.





El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1187, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1188, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS  
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

El Paso County Update - Veterans Assistance Program.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1189, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

Discussion: Community update, 346th District Court, Yvonne Whitaker, Veterans Treatment Court Program Director.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1190, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

Discussion: Community update, Aquatic Adventures LCC, Michael Robison.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1191, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

**Discussion:** Monthly Update from VAAC Sub Committees Chairs.

- a. Employment
- b. Homelessness.
- c. Mental Health



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1192, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

Discussion: Citywide Veteran Discount Program.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1193, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

**Discussion:** Guidance for annual update to council.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1194, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS  
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update.





El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #: BC-1195, Version: 1**

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS  
LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

**Announcements:** Limited to Veteran and Military events pertinent to the El Paso Region.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell  
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

---

**File #:** BC-1196, **Version:** 1

---

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**LEGISTAR AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM**

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

*This is the language that will be posted to the agenda. Please use ARIAL 11 Font.*

Discussion on proposed agenda items for next meeting.