



AGENDA FOR THE VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**October 17, 2024
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 Conference ID: 219 379 165 042

If you wish to sign up to speak please contact Paul Albright at 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

1. Roll Call. [BC-203](#)

AGENDA

2. Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of: September 19, 2024 [BC-95](#)
3. El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update - Director - Froylan Garza [BC-144](#)

4. El Paso County Update - Veterans Assistance Program Manager - Antoinette Hunt [BC-145](#)
5. Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of: September 19, 2024. [BC-193](#)
6. El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update - Interim Director - Mark Rielo [BC-194](#)
7. El Paso County Update - Veterans Assistance Program Manager - Antoinette Hunt [BC-195](#)
8. Discussion: Monthly Update from VAAC Sub Committees Chairs. [BC-196](#)
 - a. Roberto Garza - Employment
 - b. Ron Jackson - Homelessness
 - c. Donna Juarez - Mental Health
9. Discussion and Action: Proposed VAAC Bylaw changes addressing the following: [BC-197](#)
 - a. Discussion and Action: Officer term limits
 - b. Discussion and Action: Committee and Sub Committee Attendance
 - c. Discussion: Updated regulatory language to conform with the VAAC Resolution
10. Discussion and Action: Vote to excuse or unexcused absent VAAC members from previous meeting [BC-198](#)
 - a. Down Brown D5
 - b. Miguel Rosales D7
 - c. Ruben Ramirez Mayoral
11. Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update. [BC-199](#)
12. Announcements: Limited to Veteran and Military events pertinent to the El Paso Region. [BC-200](#)
13. Discussion on proposed agenda items for next meeting. [BC-201](#)
14. Next VAAC Meeting: Thursday November 21, 2024, at 10:00AM. [BC-202](#)
15. Citizen Comment Period: Individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken. [BC-204](#)

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 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 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Posted this _____ of _____ by _____.



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell
El Paso, TX

Legislation Text

File #: BC-203, Version: 2

**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.



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Legislation Text

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Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of: September 19, 2024



Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Minutes

September 19, 2024 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

Brian Kanof

Ron Jackson

George Elsaesser

Donna Juarez

Roberto Garza

Melissa Harcrow

Members Absent

Don Brown

Ruben Ramirez

Miguel Rosales

1. **Call to Order.** 10:00 AM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call.** 6 of 9 - Quorum met.
4. **Discussion and Action:** To approve the minutes of July and August, 2024, Approved
5. **Citizen Comment Period:** Individuals are limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken. No Citizen Comments
6. **El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update – Associate Director Tracy Arensmann**
 - a. Every first Thursday of the month is a tele town hall conducted with open questions to Veterans, managing over 10,000 calls.
 - b. Over 20,000 Veterans are not service connected, we could make a difference on the mental health component. The clinic would not deny the help to Veterans despite their discharge, in other words Veterans are not required to have an honorable discharge to receive mental health coverage.
 - c. The committee proposed the distribution of a flyer where it indicates that the Veteran does not have to be service connected in order to receive mental help at the VA.
7. **County Update-** Not present.
8. **Community Update:**
 - a. Home Health Aide Personal Care Services at El Paso VA.
The Home Health Aide Personal Care Services program at the El Paso VA aids Veterans who require help with activities of daily living (ADLs) such as bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, bed mobility and eating as well as personal care. The VA changed the qualification from three of these dependencies to two in order to more Veterans can participate. Veterans who would like to participate would have to reach out their primary care provider so they can place a consult for HHA.



Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

Minutes

9. Discussion.

- a. Roberto Garza-Employment – Focusing Priority to address cost of childcare for working families. Second point of address the difficulties veterans are facing to get hired into trade careers. In the works is a trades fair.
- b. Ron Jackson– Homelessness- several TVC grants were received to organizations such as Salvation Army and YWCA. These organizations are working together on addressing homelessness.
- c. Donna Juarez – Mental Health- A web site still in the progress where the committee has decided to address mental health in a holistic way, giving the hope for an easier way to sustain conflict in a Veteran's life. The committee is looking forward to this web page as complete as possible with counseling, mental state of mind, coping skills and grief, mindfulness, insomnia in sections with easy access no matter the Veteran's discharge status.

10. Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update.

- a. Attended the Texas Homeless Convention for the state of Texas, different associations were addressing different points of view. Impressed by the Houston Coalition for Homeless, and how this organization is prioritizing the needs of the Homeless. Met and spoke with Tunnel to Towers which is a large national organization that is building Veterans villages over the nation. This organization is very interested in building this type of village here in El Paso, representatives are planning to come and visit before the end of the year. The City did not receive the grant for the Aerospace Training Center, currently waiting for a brief in October with the reason of the denial. The division is currently working with the City on other grant applications such as the replacement of the fire station 12 which did receive a \$4 million grant to build already from Congress Escobar's office. The veteran coordinator position was uploaded to the web page of City of El Paso and is open to the public to apply.

11. Discussion.

- a. Discussion on amending the bylaws to address officer term limits. Officers can only serve twice as an elected officer through their term. Allowing more participation from the other districts in order to take a leadership role on the VAAC.
- b. By Laws must be amended to include attendance requirements set forth by the City Code. The city code, stipulates that if a member misses three meetings during their term it automatically will generate a letter written by the chair that is sent to the Mayor and city council. Further discussion included subcommittee attendance that is not addressed in the City code. If a member is absent for three consecutive meetings a letter will be sent to Mayor and city council for their visibility of excessive absences.
- c. Further discussion on amending the bylaws to include the VAAC waving subcommittee attendance reporting requirement where it determines extenuating circumstances provided a reasonable excuse for such members absence. VAAC members who are not present at monthly committee meetings and subcommittee meetings will either be excused or not excused by a vote by the committee as an item on the agenda during



Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Minutes

the first regularly scheduled meeting following their absence.

12. Discussion and action

Voted to excuse absences from members last meeting – Brain Kanof D1, Ruben Ramirez Mayoral, Ron Jackson D2, Donna Juarez D3 all members were excused due to prior notification of absence.

13. Announcements:

Honor Flight Vietnam Veterans Welcome home EPIA September 21

VA Announcement of winning of the Suicide Prevention Art Content September 23

TVC Resource Fair September 26

Barbeque with Veterans September 28.

14. Discussion on Future Agenda Items:

Michael Robinson from Aquatic Adventures runs dive for Veterans in the local area and it provides one free certification for Veterans in the community to include open water scuba diver certification. VAAC members will like to invite the representant to the VAAC meeting and give a brief explanation of the program. Eligibility and enrollment VA outreach, YWCA to share how their childcare program is currently functioning.

15. **Next VAAC Meeting:** Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM MDT Hybrid

16. **Adjourn.** 11:29 AM

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the Veterans Affairs Advisory Community of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meeting Act.) The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward items for public discussion, as appropriate.

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Section 551.072 DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REAL PROPERTY Section

551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS Section

551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

Section 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES Section

551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEGOTIATIONS

Sign Language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Requests must be made to the Community Development department at phone number 915-212-1654 a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting. Copies of these Minutes will be provided in Braille, large print, or audiotope upon request. Requests must be made a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting.

POSTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ AT _____ BY _____



El Paso, TX

300 N. Campbell
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Legislation Text

File #: BC-144, Version: 1

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

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El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update - Director - Froylan Garza

Fire Alarm Evacuation Procedures

(City Clerk's Office)

Knowing what to do in case of a fire in the workplace can save lives. This includes following these rules:

- Treat every alarm as an emergency.
- Start your evacuation procedures **IMMEDIATELY** at the sound of the alarm.
- Close all doors, including the vault door and turn off electronic equipment.
- Proceed to the nearest fire exit.

Plan A: Front building door **Plan B:** Side door exit (E. Mills)

- **DO NOT** use elevators as means of egress. Smoke will seek the easiest pathway from a structure and the elevator shaft will provide this pathway.
- Exit via the nearest stairway.
- If you have someone in your office make sure they leave the building with you.
- Proceed swiftly but cautiously (**NO running**).
- Leave the facility and wait at least 200 feet away in the **preassigned locations, see map below.**
- Managers and Supervisors sweep your assigned areas, offices and restrooms to verify all employees have evacuated the office/floor/building before leaving.
- **DO NOT** congregate in areas where emergency teams will be working.
- Do not re-enter the facility until the fire department has given the **all clear**.





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El Paso County Update - Veterans Assistance Program Manager - Antoinette Hunt



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File #: BC-193, Version: 1

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Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of: September 19, 2024.



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File #: BC-194, Version: 1

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
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El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update - Interim Director - Mark Rielo



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El Paso, TX

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File #: BC-195, Version: 2

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El Paso County Update - Veterans Assistance Program Manager - Antoinette Hunt



Legislation Text

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Discussion: Monthly Update from VAAC Sub Committees Chairs.

- a. Roberto Garza - Employment
- b. Ron Jackson - Homelessness
- c. Donna Juarez - Mental Health



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Discussion and Action: Proposed VAAC Bylaw changes addressing the following:

- a. Discussion and Action: Officer term limits
- b. Discussion and Action: Committee and Sub Committee Attendance
- c. Discussion: Updated regulatory language to conform with the VAAC Resolution



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Discussion and Action: Vote to excuse or unexcused absent VAAC members from previous meeting

- a. Down Brown D5
- b. Miguel Rosales D7
- c. Ruben Ramirez Mayoral



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File #: BC-199, **Version:** 2

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Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update.



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File #: BC-200, **Version:** 2

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



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Discussion on proposed agenda items for next meeting.



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File #: BC-202, Version: 1

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Next VAAC Meeting: Thursday November 21, 2024, at 10:00AM.



El Paso, TX

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File #: BC-204, **Version:** 2

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