**Monday September 9, 2024**

**Present**: Donna Vaillancourt; Ben Suncin; Fred Baer; Keith Darby; Mary Carvalho; Brandon Jones; Al Banfield; Stan Maupin

**Staff**: Ed Kiryczun, Marci Dragun; Samay Chhun; Alex Ayag; John Nibbelin

**Public Comments By**: None

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Actions/Next Steps** |
| Meeting called to order & Pledge of Allegiance Recited | * Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm
* Pledge of allegiance
* Roll call taken – 8 present/ 6 absent.
* Swearing in of New Commissioner Ben Suncin
 |  No Additional actions or steps |
| Approval of minutes & adoption of agenda | * Minutes from July 8, 2024, Commission meeting adopted.
* Minutes Approved 8 Y/0 N
* Agenda Approved 8 Y/0 N
 | No Additional actions or steps |
| Public Comments | John B- Formal Introduction to commissioner who meet Mary Carvalho at county meeting | No Additional actions or steps |
| Veterans Commission Business |  Ed Kiryczun, VSO Operation Update* VA has been experiencing a 1–3-week backlog on most submission across their systems.
* $15 billion emergency bill was introduced to address the VA shortfall for the remainder of the year.
* June 26, 2024; Presidential Proclamation on certain violations grants full and unconditional pardon to individuals with court-martial convictions under former article 125.
 | No Additional actions or step |

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| Topic | Discussion | Actions/Next Steps |
| Veterans Commission Business (Continued) | **Veteran of the year luncheon update****Stan Maupin*** Veteran of the year: Bob Hoover
* Enterprise of the year: San Mateo Elks Lodge #1112
* Patriot of the year: Congress Women Anna Eshoo
* Lifetime achievement: Supervisor Warren Slocum
* November 8th Veteran of the Year Luncheon 11:40 am- 1:30 pm
* Keynote Speaker: Retired Ann Rondeau-president of post naval graduate school.
* Currently 30 seats available to Veterans maybe more with more sponsors
 | No Additional actions or steps |
| Veterans Commission Business (Continued) | **Commissioner Updates****Brandon Jones Introduction of Vietnam Vet Don Pugh*** Don Pugh Vietnam Veteran-Even with the expansion of PACT ACT not all condition is part of the presumptive list due to exposure of Agent Orange
* Challenging experience with VA healthcare when he first started treatment for cancer.
* Surprised Pancreatic cancer is not recognized as a causation of Agent Orange exposure.
* Doing more research with VA and Stanford Medical Doctors and study to have Pancreatic Cancer added to presumptive list as a probable cause as Agent Orange Exposure
* Hope to take evidence of study to the VA to make changes to PACT ACT and expand presumptive. Having medical study done is having medical based evidence presented.
 | No Additional actions or steps |

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| Topic | Discussion | Action/Next Steps |
| Veterans Commission Business (Continued) |  **Legislative Updates – Keith Darby, Aditi Patel and Corey Braddock****Keith Darby*** 2 specific impact revision to governor state budget not heavily impact essential services to Veterans.
* Added more 6.3 billion from prop 1. A lot of the funding will go towards homelessness and adding more housing.
* Takeaway in prop 1 is adding more money assisting Veterans who are homeless.
* AB 11746 was not passed or has been rejected.
* 7 legislation that is still moving forward towards next step regarding Veterans
 | No Additional actions or steps |
| Veterans Commission Business (Continued) | **Mental Health Support- Brandon and Mary Carvalho*** July Suicide awareness month
* Brandon attended Alameda County Standdown
* Santa Clara Veteran stand down begins October 2-4 at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

**Housing and Homelessness Updates-Stan Maupin and Kyle Corcoran*** Meeting with Ed tunnel to towers veteran village concept.
* Services in between with Vet who are mobility challenging to redo entire house as well as first responders.
* Want to start the process soon and get a meeting with the board of supervisors.

**Updates: Donna Vaillancourt*** Next meeting to go over strategic planning and what was done so far this year that was originally planned.
* Planning on November 18, 2024
 | No Additional actions or steps |
| **Adjournment** | Meeting adjourn at 7:35 pm | No Additional actions or steps |