**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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 |