



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
Scottsdale Community Design Studio  
7506 E. Indian School Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Justin Layman, Chair  
Mark Ashley, Vice Chair  
Steven Jackson  
Patrick Mazarella  
Donna Tew

**ABSENT:** Pete Palmer  
Stephen Casares

**STAFF:** Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director  
Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chair Layman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**3. Discussion and possible action to approve January 8, 2025 commission meeting minutes**

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2025 VETERANS

ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, MAZZARELLA, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

#### **4. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding proposed Arizona legislation affecting veterans**

Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director, gave a presentation outlining his role as lobbyist for the City of Scottsdale, the State legislative process, a timeline of events at the State Legislature, and how to sign up to speak as an individual. He noted that Governor Hobbs released her budget package on January 17, 2025, which included a \$5 million appropriation for homes for homeless veterans. He explained that most bills take a simple majority to pass. An exception is with a bill with an “emergency clause,” which requires a super majority vote to pass and once passed goes into effect as soon as the governor signs it. He highlighted bills related to veterans issues and asked for consensus regarding the City supporting each bill.

The following bills were discussed:

**HB 2030** establishes a crime for impersonating a veteran of the United States Armed forces, classifies specific actions as unlawful, and establishes penalties for such impersonation. **Commissioners were in consensus to recommend** that City Council support HB 2030.

**HB 2617** requires law enforcement agencies to determine an arrestee’s veteran status within 24 hours of incarceration by using the Veterans Re-Entry Search Service. Agencies must document the veteran status on appropriate records and assist verified veterans in applying for federal benefits or compensation they may be eligible for through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This bill was not part of Mr. Wiebusch’s presentation. **Commissioner Jackson expressed support** for HB 2617.

**HB2672** establishing a property tax exemption for veterans with a service-connected disability.

**HCR 2023** establishing a property tax exemption for combat veterans with a service-related disability.

**HB2406** establishing a property tax exemption for combat veterans with a service-connected disability. Commissioner Jackson noted that he had a conflict of interest and did not participate in the consensus discussion. **Commissioners were in consensus to recommend** that City Council support any bill relating to property tax exemption for veterans that have a 100 percent disability.

**SB 1021** establishing that students enrolled in a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program at a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents are granted in-state student status for tuition purposes. **Commissioners were in consensus to recommend** that City Council support SB 1021.

**SB 1155** allowing a subtraction from Arizona gross income for benefits, annuities, and pension received as retired or retainer pay of the “uniformed services” of the United States, instead of the “armed forces.” Mr. Wiebusch noted that this would expand to include NOAH, which is a

uniformed service, but not an armed service. Brief discussion ensued about whether or not this bill is a veterans' issue. Chair Layman commented that the bill would include the Coast Guard who are often left out of benefits for the armed forces. **Commissioners were in consensus to recommend** that City Council support SB 1155.

**SB 1163** allowing peace officers employed by the VA to make telephonic applications for emergency admissions for mental health evaluations. A police officer who is an employee of the VA would be authorized to take into custody and transport to a screening agency or evaluation agency a person who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. It was pointed out that the bill would allow a VA officer to make arrests. Discussion ensued regarding the extent of the authority that would be given to a VA officer and whether or not this bill is within the purview of the VAC. Mr. Wiebusch will further research the details of this bill and report back to the Commission.

Commissioners were invited to contact Mr. Wiebusch with any questions they might have and encouraged to register with the State Legislature and participate as individuals.

#### **5. Discussion and possible action related to community veterans' events and activities**

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, gave an update on the Scottsdale Salutes program's second year participating in Parada del Sol, held on Saturday, February 1, 2025. He thanked Neighbors Helping Neighbors for their help and for providing the vehicle, trailer and staging location. Chair Layman thanked Commissioners for participating.

Mr. Corsette said planning for the Vietnam Veterans' Day event is nearing completion and staff have begun developing marketing materials. The event is scheduled to be held in the East Bowl at Civic Center on Saturday, March 29, 2025. The program will go from 11:00 a.m. until noon. The keynote speaker will be Vietnam Veteran Frank Lambert, who has been interviewed by the VeteransAZ program. Because the event is being held on a Saturday, Chair Layman noted he anticipates there will be more attendees than last year. He explained that discussions about holding the event at Scottsdale Community College changed, because Scottsdale Arts released the Civic Center location, enabling the City to book it for the event.

Mr. Corsette said that the City has purchased a table for the Imprints of Honor Annual Gala (formerly Veterans' Heritage Project), scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2025. Commissioners were asked to contact Mr. Corsette if they wish to attend.

Mr. Corsette announced that plans are underway to surprise Neighbors Helping Neighbors with a certificate of appreciation for all they do in Scottsdale during a ribbon cutting ceremony they are hosting in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse in Civic Center on Wednesday, February 12th at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners were in consensus to support presenting Neighbors Helping Neighbors with a certificate of appreciation.

Vice-Chair Ashley said the Veterans Advisory Commission is invited to attend ASU's Veterans Imagination Project graduation on April 9, 2025.

Chair Layman invited Commissioners to attend a Vietnam Veterans Day event hosted by his

non-profit organization "Scottsdale for Veterans" the week before the Vietnam Veterans Day event. He noted this Vietnam Veterans Day is the last of the 50<sup>th</sup> commemorative effort.

**6. Discussion, updates, and possible recommendations regarding the Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan**

There was no discussion regarding the work plan.

**7. Commissioner reports, staff updates, and suggestions for future agenda items**

Vice-Chair Ashley said that efforts are being made to invite a representative from ASU's Veterans Imagination Project to speak during either the March or April VAC meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 5, 2025

**8. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, MAZZARELLA, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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