



## **LEGISLATIVE AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, July 28, 2022 – 6:00 pm

Hosted Remotely via MS Teams

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

HANLEY CHAN, JASON CHITTAVONG, COURTNEY ELLINGTON, CHRISTOPHER MCDONALD, COURTNEY MILLER, VICTOR OLIVIERI, NICHOLAS RUSANOFF

### **CHAIR**

JASON CHITTAVONG

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jason Chittavong called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Meeting attendance is mandatory for committee members. The chair will take attendance at each meeting and send report to VAC commission secretary.

Chair Chittavong called attendance:

- Hanley Chan – present
- Courtney Ellington – present
- Christopher McDonald – present (6:18pm)
- Courtney Miller – absent
- Victor Olivieri – absent
- Nicholas Rusanoff – present

Quorum confirmed.

Absent: Commissioners McDonald, Miller, Olivieri

Discussion ensued regarding meeting protocol and administrative support available to the committee. Chair will clarify with VAC president and provide an update at the next committee meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Chair called for vote to approve June 30, 2022 meeting minutes. Those in favor say “aye”, those opposed say “no”:

- Chan: Aye
- Ellington: Aye
- Rusanoff: Aye



June 30, 2022 meeting minutes approved.

Absent: Commissioners McDonald, Miller, Olivieri

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Committee recommendation that the VAC re-instate a Rules Committee [Action/Vote]
  - Chair called for vote, those in favor say “aye,” those opposed say “no”:
    - Chan: Aye
    - Ellington: Aye
    - Rusanoff: Aye

Absent: Commissioners McDonald, Miller, Olivieri

Chair called for public comment. No public comment.

Chair will present this recommendation to the Veterans Affairs Commission at the regular commission meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

Note: Chair recognized Commissioner McDonald’s arrival to meeting at 6:18pm.

- Vote to set the Legislative Committee as a five-member body [Action/Vote]
  - Chair called vote, those in favor say “aye,” those opposed say “no”:
    - Chan: Aye
    - Ellington: Aye
    - McDonald: Aye
    - Rusanoff: Aye

Absent: Commissioners Miller, Olivieri

Chair called for public comment. No public comment.

Chair will bring request to set the Legislative Committee as a five member body to the Veterans Affairs Commission meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Chair summarized purpose and goals of Legislative Committee. Chair called on each committee member for comments or recommendations for items the committee can take under consideration at future meetings:



- Commissioner Chan suggested committee discuss how future meetings are agendized and how roles are assigned.
- Commissioners Rusanoff and McDonald agreed with Commissioner Chan's recommendation.
- Commissioner Ellington asked about committee's plan for legislative bills.
- Commissioner McDonald suggested committee members review legislation sent to Congress by various veterans organizations, and then see if something similar can be applied at city-wide level. Commissioner cited recent successes of Parks legislation and BMR legislation.
- Commissioner Ellington observed veterans with anything other than honorable discharge have a difficult time getting assistance. She asked the committee consider this issue as a future meeting agenda item.
  - As a follow up to Commissioner Ellington's comment, Commissioner Rusanoff suggested the committee discuss idea of requiring specialized training in discharge upgrades for the CVSO role.
  - Commissioner McDonald mentioned a veterans legal services course that covers discharge upgrades, etc. He can provide information to those interested.
  - Commissioner Rusanoff recommended advising the Mayor of the urgent discharge upgrade need. Recommended committee draft a letter to the Mayor's Office requesting resources to provide discharge upgrade support to the CVSO office.
  - Commissioner Chan agreed drafting a letter is a good idea and, if approved, recommended Commissioner Ellington present letter to the Mayor.
  - Commissioner Ellington further suggested funding be set aside for veterans waiting on discharge upgrade – to assist with housing, etc.
  - Chair noted funding issues should be addressed by the VAC, since the Legislative Committee is not involved with finances.
  - Commissioner Chan commented the Legislative Committee, as an advisory body, can write letters of recommendation to the BOS budget committee to request the allocation of funds for an item, housing for veterans, etc.
  - Chair noted Commissioner Chan's comment. He will follow up with the VAC and report back to the committee.
- Chair Chittavong will review proper procedure of appointing a vice-chair for the committee and, if appropriate, will add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair recognized recent legislative achievements. He particularly noted the work of Commissioner Chan on the Parks legislation, and the work of all committee members on the BMR legislation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair adjourned meeting at 6:45pm.

Veterans Affairs Commission



City and County of San Francisco

The Legislative Committee will hold its next meeting at 6:00pm on Thursday, August 25, 2022.