



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

Thursday, October 13, 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 Chittavong called the meeting to order at 6:05pm and noted meeting was recorded through Microsoft Teams. He shared an update that recently appointed Veterans Affairs Commissioner Jordan Sun has requested to serve on the committee. Point of clarification was called by Commissioner Chan. Commissioner Chan cited recent discussions about downsizing committee and expressed confusion as to why another committee member was being added. It was noted Commission President Ikram Mansori announced Commissioner Sun's request to serve on the Legislative and Rules Committee during the Veterans Affairs Commission's public meeting on October 11. Chair Chittavong repeated intent of commission to eventually create separate multiple three-member committees. Discussion continued. At 6:16pm, Chair asked commission secretary to call attendance.

### **ATTENDANCE**

VAC Secretary called attendance:

PRESENT: Commissioners Chan, Chittavong (Chair), Ellington, McDonald, Rusanoff

NOTE: Commissioners Miller, Olivieri no longer serve on committee.

Quorum confirmed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Chair reviewed meeting attendance expectations. He expressed appreciation to committee members who consistently attend meetings.
- Chair shared update that Commissioners Miller and Olivieri no longer serve on the committee. With addition of Commissioner Sun, committee stands at six members. Chair noted he will eventually select the three members to serve on downsized committee.
- Follow-up to Commissioner Chan's comment from previous meeting about offer from Supervisor Mandelman's office to provide meeting procedure training. Commission



secretary reached out to the Supervisor's office. Office staff clarified they cannot directly provide training but will look for a resource for VAC.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Secretary called for motion to approve August 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes [Action/Vote]:

- Motion – Rusanoff/Second – Ellington.
- Roll Call Vote: Chan –Yes, Chittavong –Yes, Ellington –Yes, McDonald -Yes, Rusanoff – Yes
- Motion Passed. August 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes Approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Operation Green Light for Veterans [Discussion – 10 minutes]
  - Chair mentioned letter to Representative Pelosi's office. Discussion ensued as to who would draft letter. Time sensitivity of task noted. Chair called for volunteer to draft letter. Commission secretary will follow template on Operation Green Light website, send draft for commission review. After review, letter to be sent to Representative Pelosi's office.
- Discharge Upgrades Training Cost [Discussion – 10 minutes]:
  - Chair suggested going to Board of Supervisors with a request to fund training costs. He asked for thoughts from committee. Commissioner Chan advised strategizing about requests to Board of Supervisors. He noted the limited availability of funds from BOS.
  - Commissioner Rusanoff recommended Commissioner McDonald reach out to CVSO for funding assistance advice. Commissioner McDonald responded he spoke to CVSO about course details and he will follow up to inquire about funding assistance.
  - Commissioner Chan noted lingering budget item voted on last year about each commissioner getting badges. Commissioner Chittavong responded he will follow up with Commissioner Martin-Pinto about this item.
  - Chair Chittavong called for motion to create an action item for VAC to consider training for commissioners on condition funding is found from the City. Motion by Commissioner Rusanoff.
    - Roll Call Vote: Chan – Yes, Chittavong – Yes, Ellington – Yes, McDonald – Yes, Rusanoff – Yes.
    - Motion passed. Committee recommends VAC consider discharge upgrade training course for commissioners. With condition training costs are funded through SF City & County.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Review Veterans Affairs Commission Bylaws



- Amending Article II Purpose, Powers and Duties: add: “section c. Be a resource to veterans and their families members who are residents of San Francisco “
  - Commissioner Chan motioned that committee recommend bylaw edit to VAC. Seconded by Commissioner Rusanoff.
  - Roll call vote: Chan – Yes, Chittavong – Yes, Ellington – Yes, McDonald – Yes, Rusanoff – Yes.
  - Motion passed. Committee recommends bylaws update for VAC consideration at November 8 meeting.
- Discuss feasibility of providing City ID cards for veterans and establishing a process to verify DD214s. [Discussion – 10 minutes]:
  - Commissioner Chan requested this item be removed from agenda, and proposed new item of disabled veterans business enterprise be added.
    - Motion to add new item – Chan / Second – Rusanoff.
    - Roll call Vote: Chan – Yes, Chittavong – Yes, Ellington - Yes, McDonald – Yes, Rusanoff - Yes. Motion passed.
- Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise [ADDED TO AGENDA]
  - Discussion ensued. Commissioner Chan summarized Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise program of state of California. Noted San Francisco does not have such a program. He said Supervisor Melgar is sponsoring efforts to implement a DVBE program.
    - Motion by Commissioner Rusanoff to present this item to VAC with recommendation to form an Adhoc committee for Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise led by Commissioner Chan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ellington.
    - Roll Call Vote: Chan – Yes, Chittavong – Yes, Ellington – Yes, McDonald – Yes, Rusanoff – Yes.
    - Motion passed. Committee recommendation to be included on November 8 VAC meeting agenda.
- Discuss amending procedure to select CVSO by including Veterans Affairs Commission advisement [Discussion]:
  - Commissioner Chittavong mentioned recently passed Administrative Code re CVSO Roles and Duties. He suggested VAC draft a new administrative code, noting VAC is aware of veterans needs and qualified to select CVSO. Recommended committee draft a letter to amend code and find a supervisor to support it. He requested assistance to draft letter. Commissioner McDonald volunteered to assist.



- Motion by Commissioner Chittavong to recommend VAC draft a new amendment to the City Administrative Code / Seconded – Rusanoff.
  - Roll Call Vote: Chan – Yes, Chittavong – Yes, Ellington – Yes, McDonald – Yes, Rusanoff – Yes.
  - Motion passed. Commissioners McDonald and Chittavong will draft amendment to City Administrative Code for VAC review at the November 8 meeting.
- Military Pay Protection Act (NEW AGENDA ITEM)
    - Add topic to New Business – Motion – Chittavong / Second – Ellington.
    - Roll Call Vote: Chan – Yes, Chittavong – Yes, Ellington – Yes, McDonald – Yes, Rusanoff – Yes. Motion passed. Item added.
  - Commissioner Chittavong asked for support of commission before October 25. He recommended committee draft letter of support. Requested volunteer from committee to draft a letter. No volunteers. He further recommended commissioners bring this item up during meetings with their district supervisor. Commission secretary will send draft letter for committee review.

## COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunity for committee members to share news about recent legislative achievements related to veterans affairs.

- Commissioner Rusanoff mentioned passage of PACT Act. Very important for commissioners to become familiar with contents of this important legislation.
- Commissioner Chan asked about future of Legislative and Rules Committee. Requested clarity on number of committee members. Chair responded committee structure will be decided by full commission. Chair called for any other comments, noting the agenda topic is comments or announcements about legislative achievements related to veterans affairs.
- Commissioner McDonald commented five members is a good number for committee membership.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- Public speakers from committee members only, comments included:
  - Commissioner Chan commented Legislative and Rules Committee Chair wants to reduce committee to three due to political reasons.



- Commissioner Rusanoff mentioned challenge of meeting quorum as reason to downsize committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

Due to Thanksgiving holiday, the next committee meeting will be rescheduled. New meeting date TBD.