



COMMISSION FOR VETERANS
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
6420 ALLENTOWN ROAD
CAMP SPRINGS, MD 20748



The mission of the Commission is to evaluate the needs of county veterans and their families against the programs and services offered within Prince George's County, and to promote the development or expansion of programs and services when a need identified.

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. on Jun 3, 2019
Department of Family Services, Camp Springs, Md.

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

Minutes were approved with a motion from Commissioner Martel and seconded by Commissioner Watson. Vote passed 7 to 0.

Excused Absence Commissioner Dickens
Unexcused Absences: Commissioner Nordhorn and Commissioner Milligan
Commissioner Parker arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Dr. Dula stated he was pleased with the committees hard work and listed several projects/plans that his office addressing: Healthcare, Suicide, Workforce and Education.

Dr Dula thanked Commissioners Jewitt and Martel for the countless emails that he has sent to them and for all their help. He also thanked Commissioner Pauling for helping a veteran who was on the verge of losing his home.

Guest Speakers:

NABVETS: National Association of Black Veterans.

1- Commander Mike Riddick and Shaihi Mwalimu of Chapter 122 spoke on how NABVETS assists veterans in the community, providing financial support for those who need it to include the homeless. They reminded the commissioners that there are actually nine types of discharges from the military and they assist veterans in all categories. Just recently NABVETS started handling appeals.

Area Agency on Aging

2- Division Manager Theresa Grant told the commission that there are 900,000 residents in the county and 171,000 are 60 years old or older. When a resident comes to the office the first question they ask is: Are you a veteran? They do follow up visits and even visit you at home. Most of the time business can be handled over the phone. They also offer transportation services through metro access, call a cab and cab vouchers. There is a waitlist for most programs. The Prince George's County Aging and Disability Services can be contacted at 301-265-8450.

3- There was no presentation from the PG Social Services guest speaker as indicated on the agenda.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Hendricks-Roach reported on Employment and Education: The committee looks to widen the educational information to the county. They would like to see the county offer an event similar to a job fair for veterans.

Commissioner Watson reported on Communication and Outreach: The committee held a phone conference on May 22 and nominated Commissioner Watson as the chair. They wish to obtain a list of all VSOs, the contact info and meeting times. This committee's intention is to attend meetings and conventions. They would like to utilize Prince George's County cable TV stations, Veteran Forum TV program and other media outlets. They request polo shirts to identify themselves as commissioners at events.

Commissioner Jewitt reported on Programs and Activities. He indicated planning is underway for an event to be held in late October.

Old Business: None

New Business: The annual report, which is required by the county code, chronicles the activities of the commission as well as the individual activities of each commissioner. Commissioner Jewitt is finalizing this report to make the June 30th deadline.

With a motion by Commissioner Watson and seconded by Commissioner Martel, the commission agreed to author a letter to Dr. Dula providing support and requesting that \$9,430 be granted to the Wall of Remembrance project for the Korean War Memorial which will etch the names of all 23 PG County residents who lost their lives during this war.

Vote passed 6 to 0. Commissioner Hafford stepped out of the meeting before and during the vote.

Commissioner Hendricks-Roach left the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Citizen Comments: An Army veteran from District Heights, MD highlighted the many struggles that her aging veteran neighbors face to include transportation, receiving care at a veterans hospital, knowing where to locate specific help, completing paperwork and general care. She was thanked by many commissioners for sharing her candid stories.

Announcements:

Each commissioner offered their contribution of attendance at a Memorial Day event within the county.

Honors to Colors.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Jewitt
A/Secretary.

Total guests: 5