



Agenda

DATE 2/10/15 TIME 4:49

SERVED BY Cristis Sanchez

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING**

Friday, September 18, 2015

Market Station

Conference Room

500 Market Station

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: August 12, 2015
4. New Business:
 - a. Introduction – Marisol Atkins
 - Resolution 2015-18
 - Data Report
 - Discussion regarding top Impact Areas of Focus
 - Discussion of Goals and Strategies to achieve Impact Areas
 - b. Action Item:
 - Discussion and approval of Meeting Calendar
5. Old Business:
6. Comments from the Chair and Commissioners
7. Report from Staff
8. Matters from the Floor
9. Adjournment

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 955-6520, FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO MEETING DATE.

**SUMMARY INDEX OF
VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING: September 18, 2015**

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MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
September 18, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the City of Santa Fe Veteran's Advisory Board was called to order by Chris Calvert, Chair at 1:12 p.m. on this date at the Market Station Offices, 500 Market Street, Round House Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Calvert, Chair
Ken Dettelbach
Hank Hughes [arriving later]
Sigrid (Hannah) Mabel, new member
Carmen M. Rodriguez
Gregory Scargall

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chris Abeyta, excused
Jim McCormick
Frank Pearce, resigned
(1 vacancy)

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Sanchez, Interim Acting Youth and Family Services Division Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marisol Atkins, Facilitator
Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 4a was reprioritized (*Data Report*) was moved up on the agenda.

Ms. Rodriguez moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Dettelbach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 12, 2015

Approval of the Minutes of the August 12, 2015 meeting was postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Sanchez noted that Frank Pearce has resigned from the Board. Therefore, there is one vacancy on the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduction – Marisol Atkins

Chris Sanchez said at the last Board meeting, there was discussion about the possibility of bringing in a facilitator to discuss what the scope and key goals of the Board would be.

Mr. Sanchez introduced Marisol Atkins noting that she has over 20 years in private, non-profit and private sector executive leadership. Ms. Atkins has a degree in counseling and has a background in different social services administration.

Ms. Atkins thanked the Board for having her. She noted that Mr. Sanchez called her as he was taking over some administrative roles for this group; and it came to their attention that perhaps some strategies would be helpful around forming the group; and getting clear on what the goals and roles of the group would be. She said they really want to take the time today to focus on how this group is going to function as a unit. She noted that her role today is simply to facilitate dialog on where the group wants to go.

She said the goal or “take aways” they are hoping to achieve today is as follows:

- All Board Members, as a group, will have clarity regarding the Resolution and the Roles and Responsibilities of Members, Chair and Co-Chair.
- The Board Members will also have clarity on areas/duties of focus and will reach a consensus on the desired impact in the community.

Introductions

Ms. Adkins asked the Members to introduce themselves and to provide a brief background and explanation on what motivates them to serve on the Board.

Carmen M. Rodriguez said she got selected to serve on this Board because she also serves on the Employer Support Guard of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Committee. The ESGR is a Department of Defense agency and they try to hire and support the Guard and Reserve members in Northern New Mexico. She said with that, she would like to invite everyone to the New Mexico Employer Appreciation Luncheon where employers who have supported members of the National Guard and Reserve will be recognized. The luncheon is scheduled for Friday, October 16, 2015 at the National Guard Armory, Onate Complex starting at 12:00 noon. Reservations are required and people are asked to RSVP by Friday, October 9th at the ESGR Office number: 505-271-7117 or email: gary.d.kaiser.ctr@mail.mil or Ernest.d.rodriguez2.ctr@mail.mil.

Ms. Rodriguez said she is interested in the veterans' issues and feels that there are important issues that many people do not pay attention to. She said she is hoping that this Board, being the first Veterans Board for the City of Santa Fe, will interact with ESGR and other veteran organizations within Northern New Mexico, or at a minimum, in the City of Santa Fe.

Hannah Mabel said she is a Staff Sergeant in the Army Reserve and she goes to Kirtland Air Force Base for her battle assemblies. She said her current MOS is 25Sierra, which is a satellite systems operator and maintainer. They basically go out and teach transitioning soldiers new MOSs who are being reclassified.

SSG Mabel served two tours in Iraq. She is currently employed by the City of Santa Fe as the Assistant Manager at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center.

SSG Mabel said her interest in serving on the Veteran's Advisory Board and being an active service member, she is a direct beneficiary of many military benefits; therefore she feels a responsibility to do her best in trying to give back in whatever capacity she can. She noted that she interacts with a lot of veterans and works with a lot of retirees who were former service members and there are a lot of problems out there for veterans. Therefore, she has a large vetted interest in service members and veterans' well-being.

SSG Mabel mentioned that Mr. Scargall did a great job in getting veterans and disabled veterans into the Chavez Center, either at reduced costs or no cost. She thought this was a huge achievement and she would like to support and promote this.

She said there are also a lot of misunderstandings, and not as much recognition for women veterans. You see a lot about male veterans and their successes in the media but people do not see women veteran faces and their successes.

Ken Dettelbach said he is a Vietnam veteran and served in 1966. He moved to New Mexico in the late 80's and started some businesses. He and his wife presently own Gateway Marketing who does marketing for companies in Santa Fe: Coronado Paint and Decorating, Lexus, Squeaky Clean, Firebird and others. He is also on many boards in Santa Fe to include the Santa Fe Community College and the Vietnam Veterans of America 996. He is very active in veteran affairs in multiple ways and does a lot of things for veterans in various ways.

Mr. Dettelbach noted that they had a Matanza event last night at the Santa Fe County Fair grounds and they were packed. There were over 33 businesses in town who gave away door prizes. The event was held to fund Vietnam Veterans of America 996 and veteran issues.

He mentioned that there are a lot of groups doing what this Veteran's Advisory Board could do and he is here to see how this group's implementation goes. He said he sort of wishes that there was no money in this organization because the Board will give money out to organizations but they won't get the results of giving out that money. He said he would like to see the Board prosper.

Ms. Atkins said that will be a question that can be addressed today: Should this group exist and why?

Mr. Scargall said he is a Navy veteran and was a Corpsman with the US Marine Corps. He served at the Persian Gulf and is currently 80% disabled, service connected. He works for the Santa Fe Community College at the Veteran Resource Center. He also serves on the New Mexico Council for the Navy League as the Vice President.

Mr. Scargall said Ken Dettelbach and his wife are such a valuable resource in what they do with their network of community partners. He said they do a lot of work from their heart. He said absolutely yes, this group needs to exist because there are so

many different programs but there is no central command central, like a HUB that can filter and distribute this information, not only to veterans but also to the families of veterans. This is a huge piece.

Mr. Scargall distributed a handout on his rough draft proposal for a “Santa Fe Veterans & Family Assistance Fund (SF V&FAF). Please see Exhibit “A” for the specifics.

Mr. Scargall thinks it is the duty of this body to establish a SF V&FAF with part of the seed money. The Fund can benefit the veteran community as a whole. The goal is to establish several large-scale reoccurring fund raising events throughout the year, and to also call upon community partners to contribute and consolidate their generous donations into the Fund. The Veterans’ Advisory Board could work towards contributing monies each year from its fund. Ultimately, it will take a collaborative effort to keep this Fund viable for generations to come. Mr. Scargall said the Board should lead by example by depositing \$30,000 as the initial seed money for the Fund.

Mr. Scargall would like to see the Board reach out to the community and do some “door-knocking” literally to every single house in this community, one district at a time, and identify whether there is a veteran attached to that house and provide material and a “heart full of love and a big hug” to those veterans.

Mr. Scargall also distributed a handout on the 2014 veterans’ profile that came from the Department of Veteran Services Workforce Solutions. Please see Exhibit “B” for the specifics on the data.

Mr. Scargall noted that there are 165,000 veterans in New Mexico and 11% (appx. 16,000) are from Santa Fe. He asked where are these veterans.

Ms. Atkins said Mr. Scargall made a lot of critical points and she said one of the points here is what is already happening in the community; and does this Board decide to look at those things that are already happening, or are they going to focus on something new; and are there funds to do this.

Chair Calvert said he appreciates all the thoughts and compassion that goes into what Mr. Scargall is talking about. He said the Board needs to get to the main framework and determine what the Board’s role is and the focus of this meeting is for that.

Chair Calvert was a pilot during the Vietnam War and since then he served on the City Council here in Santa Fe for eight years. He was partly responsible for some of the actions that they took regarding the veterans. One was securing the funds for this Board, while he was on City Council. Another organization that he works with is Veterans Helping Homeless Veterans, which does fundraising throughout the year and all the proceeds go towards helping veterans either get housing or to get supportive services so that they can maintain their lifestyle and their housing.

Chair Calvert said what motivated him, besides being a veteran and having serve on the Council and seeing some of the programs they have, was not to let what happened to the veterans who returned from Vietnam happen to future veterans.

He said there are a lot of things happening out there already, as discussed, and the Board's function is not necessarily to duplicate or compete with those existing services; however, they want the veterans to know about all those things that are out there and how to access them. He said if you read the Resolution, one of the Board's functions or roles is to coordinate with the different organizations in the community.

Mr. Dettelbach thinks that this organization is important and could be in the pinnacle of organizations; and this can be done in a way that there is accountability and leverage. He said an accountability sheet could be done that organizations fill out in detail that talks about the money they received and the results, but also about how they are going to leverage this organization, i.e., the Board could be on their website and social media links, email and volunteer and donor lists, etc. The Board needs to let people know about it and has to create an image if it wants to be sustainable for a period of years. You can market this organization by putting a decal on every business that contributes.

Mr. Sanchez said it is important to note that the City is a huge player in terms of funding: the Children and Youth Commission issues out 1.2 million in funding and the Human Services Commission issues another million. Therefore, there is an existing system for requests for proposals and funding organizations.

Chris Sanchez gave a brief history of his background noting that he is originally from Las Vegas, New Mexico. He moved to Santa Fe in 1992 and raised his family here. He said his bloodline is military; however, he did not go into the military - he went into Corrections. He said he is excited and passionate about veteran issues.

Jo Ann Valdez, the Stenographer introduced herself noting that she comes from a military family and is also passionate about veteran issues.

Resolution 2015-18

(Copies of Resolution 2015-18 establishing the City of Santa Fe Veterans' Advisory Board were distributed. A copy is hereby incorporated to these Minutes as Exhibit "C".)

Chair Calvert said the purpose of this Board is: *"to advise the Governing Body on strategies and solutions to address the needs of local veterans which include, but are not limited to medical needs, housing, employment and homelessness."*

SSG Mabel said the Board needs to be careful about stated needs versus perceived needs. She said the Board needs to ask the veterans what their needs are.

Ms. Atkins noted that she extracted the Duties and Responsibilities that are listed in Section 3 of the Resolution. She suggested that the Board talk about who they are as a group and how they are going to function. She reviewed the Duties and Responsibilities of the Board as follows:

- A. *Make recommendations for the use of funds received from the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, in accordance with state law and the New Mexico Veterans' National Cemetery Fund, for veteran programs, pursuant to City of Santa Fe's Resolution No. 2013-2.*

Ms. Atkins asked if this is the \$150,000 that is available.

Mr. Sanchez said yes, it is a little more than \$150,000.

Chair Calvert said this is not stagnant, it can grow on its own because the source of this fund is a check off on the New Mexico Income Tax form. This is a voluntary contribution for taxpayers. He noted that the last "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED" in the Resolution talks about marketing and publish this so that the Fund will grow: *"Staff is directed to issue a public service announcement on an annual basis to inform the public that there is an option on the PIT-1 New Mexico Personal Income Tax form to make voluntary contribution from a taxpayer refund towards the Veterans National Cemetery Fund"*.

- B. *Make recommendations related to transition services for soon to be discharged veterans who would meet with Workforce Development to assess if the person holds or because of military experience could earn licensure that would be*

needed in a civilian job, job seeking skills, registration with Workforce Development.

Chair Calvert explained that this basically states that the Board will coordinate with Workforce Development on transitional issues. He thinks this falls under employment in general. He said it is also looking at City policies in conjunction with covering military experience to civilian jobs, job skills and conversions.

Mr. Sanchez said this is a great idea. He asked if anybody has done this.

SSG Mabel said there are certainly models out there. She said in New Mexico we lack some kind of matriculation agreement between an Armed Force service and a local workforce (to convert military experience for civilian jobs). She said there are shortages in these fields such as law enforcement and this could help get recruits in.

Mr. Dettelbach said the Board could identify and establish strategic partnerships with agencies like the City Police force, etc.

Ms. Rodriguez asked if the Board could get someone from Workforce Development to fill the vacancy on the Board.

Mr. Scargall noted that position at Workforce Development is vacant. Interested individuals can contact the State Personnel Office.

Chair Calvert said there is already a list of people who applied for the Board and did not get appointed.

- D. Compile and maintain a "how-to" for veterans to receive:*
- 1) Down-payment assistance for home ownership; or*
 - 2) Rental assistance for first time renters; or*
 - 3) Shelter plus care rental for those needing additional services to maintain housing.*

Chair Calvert said these fall under the category that he would call "Inform and Connect". He said he has already initiated a City webpage on the City's website that would be specifically dedicated to veterans. This would be pulling together information and making it available for people.

- **Data Report**

Mr. Dettelbach said these would be pathways for people to access information.

Ms. Atkins asked if anyone knows if this already exists.

Mr. Scargall said he and Chair Calvert talked about putting together something. He noted that the State was supposed to put some kind of portal together but he does not think they have.

Mr. Dettelbach suggested that someone be hired on a temporary basis to put some kind of database together. This could be paid out of the \$150,000 fund that is available to the Board.

How

Duty C – veterans’ website/link for/on city website

- Hire someone to create/oversee with the \$150K funding
- Gather data from state and local agencies
- Where does data exist?

(Mr. Dettelbach noted that he has some data)

Ms. Rodriguez said she really thinks that there should be some kind of hard copy of veteran resources and organizations that are available. She suggested that the Board Members send a list of organizations that they know of to Mr. Sanchez.

Duty C and Duty D can be linked: The Board will identify these services and inform people how to connect to those services.

E. Review and make recommendations on how to provide assistance to veterans for items that cannot be paid for with federal funds i.e., bus passes, Railrunner passes to go to Albuquerque VA Hospital and Veteran’s Integration Center, a resource directory and access to a computer with fax and printer for veterans.

Ms. Atkins asked if this already exists, like at the Community College or the Chavez Center.

Mr. Scargall said there is access through the Workforce Connections and the SF Community College Veterans Resource Center is open to the public.

Mr. Sanchez asked if this is publicized in the community.

Mr. Scargall said he thinks the breakdown that is in this community is communications. There needs to be some kind of communications matrix to get out there to disseminate information.

Chair Calvert said he talked to the Mayor about this – the City has facilities that they could use to get information, such as the City library. We can train people on how to provide veterans information on resources.

SSG Mabel asked how we reach the veterans who do not go to events. She suggested that care packages be done by the Veterans Advisory Board that would include information pieces. Some targeted care packages could be done for veterans who are just getting out of school and for the homeless and underemployed or unemployed veterans.

Ms. Atkins said the cost of the care packages could come out of Duty A (from the New Mexico Veteran's National Cemetery Fund.)

Mr. Scargall said the Homeless Veterans Stand Down that is scheduled for November 6th through November 8th at the University of Arts and Design should be an action item at the next Board meeting. They need some financial assistance. He said this is what the Santa Fe Veterans & Family Assistance Fund is about. He explained that the Board could establish a community oversight committee made up of veterans and community partners. The oversight committee will have the authority to receive, review, and act on distributing funds to authorized recipients.

SSG Mabel suggested that some kind of insert be created that could be distributed with the veteran license plates. The insert could include a list of resources.

Mr. Sanchez and SSG Mabel recommended that the Board reach out to the people who they have not been able to reach before.

Ms. Atkins said it sounds like the last sentence in E (*a resource directory and access to a computer with fax and printer for veterans*) really belong with Duties listed in C and D.

Chair Calvert said there will be certain things listed in Item E that the Board will be working on as a group, and will be the group's priorities, but it does not mean that individuals can't be working on something that is part of the purpose of this organization. People can work on different things at different times.

Ms. Atkins said after this meeting, she will work with Mr. Sanchez on creating a list of priorities for the Board to address their duties as a group.

F. Assist local nonprofits who work with individuals to access Social Security benefits; investigate SOAR, a program to streamline application process to assess Social Security benefits.

G. Work with local non-profits to bring in more life skills and behavioral health capacity services.

Ms. Atkins suggested that the Board postpone items F & G and look at them down the line because this may not be a role or purview of the Board.

SSG Mabel said Item G kind of refers back to Item B in some ways.

H. Work with State of New Mexico Workforce Development to promote existing services.

This was discussed above, and is in the category of inform and connect.

I. Work with the Santa Fe Resource Opportunity Center to make outreach efforts to veterans who are experiencing homelessness.

Chair Calvert said this is something that the City is already supporting and is sponsoring/funding John Herman at the Interfaith Community Shelter (ROC) through the Veteran's Advisory Board Fund at the Resource Opportunity Center who is doing this function. It is in the category of inform and connect also.

J. Recognize and honor in accomplishments of local veterans.

Mr. Scargall noted that he and Chair Calvert had the distinct honor in meeting with the City of Albuquerque's veteran-appointed representative (Roger Newell), who is a purple-heart recipient. Mr. Newell was appointed by Mayor Berry to be the Veteran Liaison for the City of Albuquerque.

Mr. Scargall said the City of Albuquerque got with the Purple Heart Association and declared themselves a "Purple Heart" city. They also do a small card that is passed out as a token of appreciation and heartfelt thanks. This includes a small folded flag thanking veterans for their service to our great country, state and city. They also identified all City workers that are veterans and they have a small ceremony to recognize these employees.

Mr. Scargall said he was thinking that some kind of pin could be done for the City of Santa Fe that would include the City's seal and declare Santa Fe a "Purple Heart City". He noted that Veteran's Day is coming up and this would give the Board an opportunity to do pieces like these.

Chair Calvert said he already had City staff write a Resolution making the City of Santa Fe a Purple Heart City. The Mayor has agreed to sponsor the Resolution and it could be approved by City Council the day before Veteran's Day.

Chair Calvert noted that he would be talking with Isaac Pino about the street signs declaring Santa Fe a Purple Heart City. The signs would be placed around the City, possibly at the Santa Fe Community College, City Hall, etc.

Mr. Sanchez suggested that a press release be done that talks about the newly formed Veteran's Advisory Board and mention that this is one of the things they are working on for the veterans.

Mr. Scargall mentioned that he has talked to the Santa Fe Community College about doing a memorial garden honoring all veterans, to include women. They could do a beautiful sculpture to put in the garden. He noted that he was in California recently in West Hollywood and they had a cool memorial garden. He was also in Huntington Beach in California and they had street banner flags that showed "Hometown Heroes" that have served in the current conflicts. He said

these attributes would create an identity within this community for organizations to come to where they can recognize and honor veterans.

Mr. Scargall referred to Mr. Dettelbach's statement about accountability and leverage and said he wrote down three tiers: Accountability and leverage; respect and honor; and diversity and sustainability.

Mr. Scargall noted that the Veteran's Advisory Board was not publicized in the newspaper and this needs to change. They need to publicize that there are bus passes for veterans and free access to fitness centers in the City of Santa Fe for disabled veterans. This is the first city in the nation that has offered this and this should be publicized.

Hank Hughes arrived.

Ms. Atkins continued with her bullet points as follows:

Who is the Veteran's Advisory Board?

- Action Group (want to be an action group and have established a structure; i.e., Chair and Vice Chair)

Responsibilities of:

Chair and Vice Chair

- To conduct/facilitate meetings and keep them on track
- Develop and set the agenda
- Voice to Governing Body
- Maintain order
- Bridge /liaison to staff person
- Bridge/liaison to members

Members:

- Values as a group:
 - Respect – Honor (beliefs)
 - Accountability – leverage (committed)
 - Diversity – Sustainability-Reliability (supports)
 - Active community involvement
- Must attend – be on time
- Participate/contribute
- Commitment

- Open and consciousness
- Respectful communication with others (internal and external)
- Respectful representation in the community
- Supportive of group (agree to disagree)
- Share information regarding related issues

Staff Liaison:

- Administrative support, distribute Minutes of Meetings, press releases
- Communication with Chair and Vice Chair

- **Discussion regarding top Impact Areas of Focus**

Framework-Issues/Priorities

- Must fall within duties
- Individuals can present on areas for the Board to address
- Must be backed by data
- Set intention for next meetings

- **Discussion of Goals and Strategies to achieve Impact Areas**

Take Aways:

- All Board Members, as a group, should have clarity regarding the Resolution and the Roles and Responsibilities of Members, Chair and Co-Chair.
- The Board Members should also have clarity on areas/duties of focus and have reached a consensus on the desired impact in the community.

Mr. Scargall said the Board needs to strategize for Veteran's Day and possibly design a pin and have some made to hand out for Veteran's Day. He asked if he could take the initiative to start a web page.

Chair Calvert said the Board needs to decide as a group what they want to work on. He said the Board needs to have some kind of framework to evaluate what comes before the Board and prioritize what they want to work on. He thinks the Board needs to have facts and data when the Board is asked to vote on certain things.

SSG Mabel recommended that the Board have another retreat to talk about the priorities that each member would like to see done and the Board could come to a consensus on what they want to do first.

Mr. Sanchez suggested that the Board have another 3-4 hour meeting to bring together the priorities/passions that each Board Member thinks are important. These would have to be supported or backed by data for the Board to make informed decisions.

Ms. Atkins said it looks like the Board wants to focus on Veteran's Day for the next meeting and discuss what the Board wants to do or work on.

Ms. Rodriguez noted that the City is doing a Veteran's parade and they would like for the Board to be involved or participate with that. She asked if the Board would like to have a banner for the parade.

Mr. Sanchez said he will bring the information about this to the next meeting.

Mr. Scargall asked if there is a procedure for funding requests.

Mr. Sanchez said one of the components of this Board is to design how they want to utilize the \$150,000 Veteran's Advisory Board fund in accordance with the Resolution.

Chair Calvert said he is going to suggest to the City Manager that requests less than \$50,000 be approved by him. Any request that is over \$50,000 will be approved by City Council. Chair Calvert and Mr. Sanchez will meet with the City Manager to see if this is OK with him. The Board will work on a framework for funding requests.

Mr. Scargall will bring quotes to the next meeting to purchase up to 10,000 pins that include the City's seal to honor the veterans. He will also bring some other ideas to honor the veterans. He asked if the Board could do a funding authorization for marketing materials to include pins, cards and the creation of a logo.

SSG Mabel suggested that the quotes come from local veteran vendors.

Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to recommend that the City allocate \$10,000 for marketing materials to include pins, coins and printed marketing material (cards, fliers, banners and flags) based upon the timeline sensitivity for Veteran's Day. SSG Mabel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The goals and strategies to achieve the impact areas will be approved as a Body at the next meeting.

b. Action Item:

- **Discussion and approval of Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Sanchez proposed that the Board continue to meet at the same time.

There was consensus that the Board needs more than one hour to meet.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Scargall made a motion to meet on the second Wednesday of the month and revise the schedule from meeting at 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., same location. Due to the Veteran's holiday in November, the November meeting date was changed to November 4th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Chair Calvert noted that he would not be attending the next meeting. He will be out of town from October 10th to November 3rd.

Mr. Hughes said the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness is on track to house all of the homeless veterans by Veteran's Day.

REPORT FROM STAFF

There was no report from staff.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no matters from the floor.

ADJOURNMENT

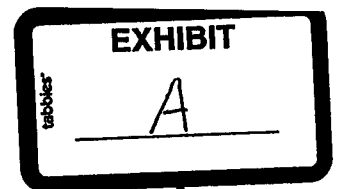
The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Market Station office at the Railyard on 500 Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Approved by:


Chris Calvert, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:


Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer



Santa Fe Veterans & Family Assistance Fund

(SF V&FAF)

Rough Draft Proposal

Proposal: To establish the Santa Fe Veterans & Family Assistance Fund.

Who Can Use It? The funds can be distributed to individual veterans, their immediate family members, veteran service organizations, and local non-profits that provide services and resources to veterans and their families.

What Can It Be Used For? Rainy day requests, Hardship support, scholarships, fund matching, any financial need that is presented by a authorized recipient and approved by the fund community oversight committee.

How Much Can Be Requested? The amount any authorized recipient can request is subject to change as the fund balance fluctuates. Any single request amount should not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ of the current fund balance. The community oversight committee will have authority to propose request limits to the SF Veterans Advisory Board (SF VAB) for final approval.

How Often Can Funds Be Requested? Ideally an authorized recipient should only use the SF V&F once per year. However, the community oversight committee will be able to refer additional requests to the SF VAB for final approval.

Oversight & Accountability: The SF VAB will establish a community oversight committee made up of veterans and community partners. The oversight committee will have the authority to receive, review, and act on distributing funds to authorized recipients. The oversight committee will have at least one SF VAB board member appointed to act as a liaison between the two governing bodies. Shared governance with SF VAB having final authority is suggested for ultimate accountability and integrity. (This language will need to be completed by a legal consultant.)

Monetary Sustainability: This fund can and will benefit our veteran community as a whole. The goal is to establish several large-scale reoccurring fund raising events throughout the year, and to also call upon community partners to contribute and consolidate their generous donations into the fund. The SF VAB will also work towards contributing monies each year from its fund. Ultimately it will take a collaborative effort to keep this fund viable for generations to come.

Initial Seed Money: I propose that the SF VAB deposit \$30,000 to initiate the Santa Fe Veterans & Family Assistance Fund account.



Saturday, August 15, 2015 12:17 PM

BLS vs.Gallup Unemployment Rate - Massive Discrepancies

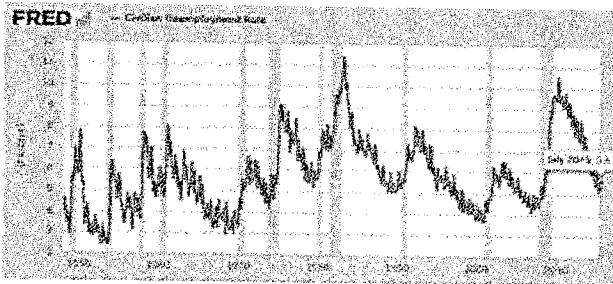
The Gallup Daily U.S. Employment , poll estimates unemployment at 6.3% and underemployment at 14.5%.

	% Payroll to population	% Underemployed	% Unemployed
08/13/2015	45.6%	14.5%	6.3%
08/12/2015	45.6%	14.3%	6.2%
08/11/2015	45.6%	14.8%	6.3%
08/10/2015	45.4%	14.7%	6.4%
08/9/2015	45.5%	14.5%	6.4%
08/8/2015	45.5%	14.4%	6.4%
08/7/2015	45.5%	14.5%	6.4%
08/6/2015	45.6%	14.4%	6.2%
08/5/2015	45.6%	14.4%	6.2%
08/4/2015	45.6%	14.3%	6.3%

Gallup cautions: *"Because results are not seasonally adjusted, they are not directly comparable to numbers reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which are based on workers 16 and older. Margin of error is ±1 percentage point."*

Actually the numbers can be compared. All one has to do is use the BLS non-seasonally adjusted numbers.

Civilian Unemployment Rate, Not Seasonally Adjusted



Gallup estimates the unemployment rate at 6.3% but the BLS says 5.6%. If anything, the BLS number should be higher than Gallup.

Why?

Because Gallup surveys those 18 and older whereas the BLS surveys 16 and older. Given high youth-unemployment, any BLS bias should be higher, not lower.

1 his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services is to provide
3 assistance to veterans, their widows, and their children in establishing the privileges which they are
4 legally entitled, such as ~~health care~~, educational benefits and the right to a proper burial; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body has shown support for local veterans in our community
6 through the adoption of various pieces of legislation which include, but are not limited to the following:

- 7 • Designating funds received from the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services,
8 pursuant to state law, solely for veteran programs;
- 9 • Implementing a City of Santa Fe Veterans' Hiring Initiative;
- 10 • Supporting the development of a veterans art therapy program in Santa Fe;
- 11 • Urging the City's Congressional Delegation to support efforts to build, preserve,
12 rehabilitate and operate rental housing that is affordable for low income veterans and
13 their families;
- 14 • Directing staff to explore the resources and programs provided by the federal government
15 that would help end veteran homelessness in our community by the end of 2015; and

16 **WHEREAS**, recently, the New Mexico Veterans Administration opened the Santa Fe
17 Community Based Outpatient Clinic which is designed to deliver primary care services to eligible
18 Veterans; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Vet Center provides a broad range of counseling, outreach, and
20 referral services to combat Veterans and their families; and

21 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to continue to assist local veterans in Santa Fe, therefore, the
22 Governing Body desires to establish a Veterans' Advisory Board that would address matters affecting
23 veterans, propose solutions to alleviate or address the needs of local veterans and recognize the
24 contributions local veterans have made.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**

1 CITY OF SANTA FE that the Governing Body hereby salutes the brave service of local men and
2 women in our community who have served our great Country.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body hereby establishes a board to
4 address matters affecting local veterans.

5 **Section 1. NAME:** The board shall be called the Veterans' Advisory Board ("Board").

6 **Section 2. PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Board is to advise the Governing Body on
7 strategies and solutions to address the needs of local veterans which include, but are not limited to
8 medical needs, housing, employment and homelessness.

9 **Section 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

10 A. Make recommendations for the use of funds received from the New Mexico
11 Department of Veterans' Services, in accordance with state law and the New Mexico Veterans'
12 National Cemetery Fund, for veteran programs, pursuant to City of Santa Fe Resolution No. 2013-2.

13 B. Make recommendations related to transition services for soon to be discharged
14 veterans who would meet with Workforce Development to assess if the person holds or because of
15 military experience could earn licensure that would be needed in a civilian job, job seeking skills,
16 registration with Workforce Development.

17 C. Compile and maintain a listing of physical and behavioral health services available
18 for veterans.

19 D. Compile and maintain a "how-to" for veterans to receive:

20 (1) Down-payment assistance for home ownership; or

21 (2) Rental assistance for first time renters; or

22 (3) Shelter plus care rental for those needing additional services to maintain
23 housing.

24 E. Review and make recommendations how to provide assistance to veterans for items
25 that cannot be paid for with federal funds, i.e., bus passes, Railrunner passes to go to the Albuquerque

1 VA Hospital and Veteran's Integration Center, a resource directory and access to a computer with fax
2 and printer for veterans.

3 F. Assist local nonprofits who work with individuals to access Social Security benefits;
4 investigate SOAR, a ~~program to streamline~~ application process to access Social Security benefits.

5 G. Work with local nonprofits to bring in more life skills and behavioral health capacity
6 services.

7 H. Work with State of NM Workforce Development to promote existing services.

8 I. Work with the Santa Fe Resource Opportunity Center to make outreach efforts to
9 veterans who are experiencing homelessness.

10 J. Recognize and honor the accomplishments of local veterans.

11 **Section 4. MEMBERSHIP; OFFICERS; TERM:**

12 A. *Membership.* The City shall solicit the community for interested persons to serve on
13 the Board. The Board shall consist of nine members who shall be appointed by the Mayor and
14 approved by the Governing Body. Appointees of the Board shall be residents of the Santa Fe County.
15 At all times, a minimum of three members of the Board shall be veterans or immediate family
16 members of veterans. To the greatest extent possible, the Board shall include representation from:

- 17 • The business community
- 18 • A mental health provider
- 19 • A homeless service provider
- 20 • A local housing services provider
- 21 • A financial services provider
- 22 • A medical services provider
- 23 • An outdoor oriented non-profit
- 24 • Arts oriented non-profit
- 25 • Animal oriented non-profit

1 ATTEST:

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Yolanda Y. Vigil

4 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Kelley A. Brennan

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8 KELLEY A. BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *M/Legislation/Resolutions 2015/2015-18 Veterans Advisory Board*