



Commission on Veterans Affairs By-laws



What:

- City of San Antonio Commission on Veterans Affairs (VAC) seeks approval for proposed by-laws updates

Background:

- VAC is an eleven-member commission representing the Mayor and the ten City Council districts -- members must be veterans
- Commission was chartered by Ordinance 93743 on April 12, 2001 (with the current by-laws), with no changes since 2001
- VAC established a sub-committee to revise by-laws; reviewed by CAO; updates received unanimous approval

Mission:

- Serve City Council in an advisory capacity on issues affecting City's military-affiliated population
- Represents respective Council districts at various military and veteran engagement events; act as the veterans' voice and liaison for district staff on issues of common concern

Other notes:

- Commission is active and meeting quorum -- all eleven positions are filled
- Five current sub-committees -- four are new: By-laws, Strategic Plan, Hidden Heroes City, Veterans Day 2023, Housing Support



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By-laws key changes:

- Renames the VAC from “Commission on Veterans Affairs” to “Veterans Advisory Commission”
 - Alleviates confusion that the VAC is associated with the federal government’s Veterans Affairs department and mission
 - Aligns with common name (VAC)
- Updated duties
 - Moves to focus on understanding areas of support, analyze those for gaps and strengths, and provide recommendations to their respected elected officials
 - Moves away from “clearing house” requirement to know all individual veteran support organizations in community
- Requires a strategic plan to ensure output -- subcommittee established in September 2022
- Formalizes requirement for a Secretary -- position is filled
- Adds Council member-appointed Community Liaisons (CL) for each district
 - CLs do not serve as alternatives and cannot vote
 - CLs can represent on sub-committees
 - One CL already in place (D7)
- Requires every-other-month meetings instead of quarterly
 - Currently exceeding requirement -- met eight times in 2022