



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 28

Agenda Date: Invalid date

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of Military and Veterans Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Juan Ayala

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

An ordinance authorizing changes to the bylaws of the City Commission on Veteran Affairs.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is to authorize changes to the bylaws of the City's Commission on Veteran Affairs to reflect current mission and objectives, and to receive inherent authority to make future changes to the bylaws.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In April 2001, the City of San Antonio activated the Commission on Veterans Affairs (VAC), via Ordinance No. 93743, to include the current bylaws.

This year, VAC members created a subcommittee to review the current bylaws and propose changes to update the 21 year-old document. The subcommittee worked with the Military and Veteran Affairs Department staff liaison to update the bylaws to reflect current mission and objectives, and subsequently presented proposed changes to the Commission. The City Attorney's Office reviewed the proposed document and provided input which was incorporated by the subcommittee. The VAC unanimously approved new updates.

The 2001 bylaws established the VAC to ‘provide policy guidance to the Council’ and ‘serve as a clearing house for services.’ While the former is still an appropriate VAC function, other organizations in the area are both funded and staffed to perform the resource clearing house function. The VAC serves a vital role in the community by providing representation for their respective districts at various military and veteran engagement events. In this role, the VAC serves their primary propose - serving as the voice and liaison for their district staff on issues of common concern.

The VAC also proposes to modify their name from the Commission on Veteran Affairs to Veterans Advisory Commission to avoid confusion through unintended association to the Federal government’s Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

On October 19, 2022, the City’s Governance Committee unanimously approved the recommended changes to the bylaws.

ISSUE:

VAC bylaws require an update to reflect current mission and objectives.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is to have the VAC continue operating as-is under their current name and 21-year old bylaws.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.