

**VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 11, 2019  
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
AMC Eagle Conference Room**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Veterans' Affairs Commission was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair Francis.
- II. **PRAYER**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:**
- **Present:** Chair Francis, Vice Chair Aleem, Commissioners Camara, Charlip, Echols, and Chase, Jr.
  - **Absent:** Commissioners Burrell, Donaldson, Dyer and Mulder.
  - **Staff:** Claudine McDonald, Traci Burton, and Joshua Nicholas.
- V. **GUESTS:** James Sieffert, Roger Martin, Joseph Zmugg, Ida Tholen, Gary Anguilm, Chis Burton, and Brian Johnson.
- VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved to approve the minutes by Commissioner Camara and seconded by Commissioner Chase, Jr. June minutes approved and signed by Chair Francis.
- VII. **STAFF REPORT – Claudine McDonald:** She shared results of the Aurora Youth Expo. The success of event is based on qualitative and quantitate data. The event raised \$20,000. The event is slated to return in 2020. Community Relations is working on a new strategic plan for the division. One key factor is to meet with each commission including VAC. More information to come. Plans for the January 2020 MLK celebration have begun. Commissioners are invited to be a part of the planning committee.
- VIII. **CHAIR REPORT–Chair Francis:** She made a connection with the Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) regarding radon. The EPA is currently working with the state of Colorado and surrounding areas to provide support. She spoke with Council Member Murillo who confirmed that housing and homelessness is on her list of priorities. She is planning to schedule meetings with State Senators and the Governor to discuss housing for veterans.
- IX. **VICE CHAIR REPORT–Vice Chair Aleem:** He met with Council Member Bergan and learned about her veteran focus. Her focus is homeless and housing. Council Members Richardson and Watson also have concerns on homelessness and housing for veterans. He is circulating information for the upcoming Stand Down.
- X. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- City Council Liaison-Commissioner Echols-**He plans to attend Ward III, Council Member Berzins picnic at Bicentennial Park on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Economic Development-Commissioner Camara-**He expressed interest in connecting with James Sieffert to further discuss collaborative efforts with Homes for All Veterans.
- Public Outreach-Commissioner Mulder-**No update.
- Budget–Commissioner Donaldson-**No update. Chair Francis requested an up to date budget overview. Claudine McDonald provided a brief budget update. She will provide a budget with YTD numbers to the commission for review.
- Special Events-Commissioner Chase-**Multiple community partners are now involved with Stand Down. A media blitz will occur in September leading up to the Stand Down. Estimating 350 participants. The VA grant for Stand Down funds has been approved as written. Waivers for volunteers are needed. Chair Francis will email the donation letter to Commissioners. Commissioners are to provide to local businesses when soliciting donations for Stand Down.



Doing Business with the City of Aurora-Vice Chair Aleem-This project will be on hold due to Stand Down preparations.

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Stand Down-Commissioner Chase-Updates in the Special Events Report.
- National Debt Presentation-The case for the National Debt was presented to Commissioners and Guests. Claudine will research placement in the Aurora Municipal Center.
- Storage Unit-Post 23 has offered land for a storage container. The container will be used for donations for the Stand Down. Claudine McDonald will reach out to the City of Aurora's legal department whether the commission can move forward with the offer from Post 23.
- Fundraising Committee-A motion to form a fundraising subcommittee was presented to the commission by Commissioner Camara. Moved to approve by Chair Francis and seconded by Vice Chair Watik.
- Strategic Plan: Commissioner Charlip will begin a 3 to 5 year strategic plan.
- Flags for Fallen Vets-Volunteers needed for future events.
- VAC Representative for Ft. Logan- Claudine McDonald offered to recruit city volunteers for Flags for Vets. Having enough volunteers for these events is a priority.
- Movie Night for MLK 2020-Claudine advised of upcoming MLK celebrations and strongly encouraged VAC to participate in the event. Commissioner Camara joined the planning committee.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Francis celebrates her birthday next week.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Francis: The Veterans' Affairs Commission adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes Transcribed by: Josh Nicholas on July 29, 2019 & Traci Burton on July 31, 2019.

Approved:   
Chair Francis

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Eagle Room, Phone 303-326-8909

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Aurora Community of Faith (ACOF)  
 Race Forum Meeting  
 Aurora Key Community Response Team (AKCRT)  
 Humans Relations Commission (HRC)

Thursday August 15, 2019 @ 11:30 AM  
 Thursday August 15, 2019 @ 6:00 PM  
 Tuesday September 3, 2019 @ 8:00AM  
 Wednesday September 4, 2019 @ 6:00 PM

Sand Creek Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Sand Creek Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Aurora Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
 Aspen Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor