

Meeting Minutes

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting

May 13, 2025 | 5 p.m.
Council Chambers Conference Room
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Levinson at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair Shane Levinson
Vice Chair Michael Simon
Commissioner Mary Baker
Commissioner Jacob Dort
Commissioner Carol Farabee
Commissioner Shane Levinson
Commissioner LaShay Marks

Staff Attendance

Corey Povar, Staff Liaison
Tawn Kao, Deputy City Attorney
Luke Tasker, Recording Secretary

Absent

Commissioner Robert Dalpe (excused)

Scheduled/Unscheduled Public Appearances

1. Welcome new Commissioner, Mary Baker - Chair Levinson

Chair Levinson welcomed Comm. Baker, who briefly introduced herself.

Consent Agenda

2. April 2024 Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes
Move Military and Veterans Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of the April 8, 2025 regular meeting.

Comm. Dort motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Comm. Farabee. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion

3. Discussion regarding the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission's objectives: Advise, Educate, Collaborate & Coordinate, Acknowledge & Honor

The Commission reviewed its objectives as laid out by city code, in addition to the tasks identified at the planning retreat. Comm. Dort suggested that for future monthly reviews, the Commission could look at what has been accomplished since the prior meeting in this area. Brochure updates were requested: (1) adding Comm. Baker and (2) adding the Commission's mission statement: "Honor the Veteran, Celebrate the Service".

4. Discussion regarding debriefing the Freedom, Hope, Future event

The Commission discussed the Freedom, Hope, Future event, with the consensus that it was a success. Mr. Povar advised that it was likely to be a one-time event, albeit with the possibility of some incorporation into the Veterans Day event. He advised that community members and Council provided positive feedback and thanked the Commission for their efforts in making the event a success.

5. Discussion regarding debriefing the Military Bound event

The Commission debriefed the Military Bound event, with the consensus that it was a success, with several improvements suggested for next year. The catering from Floridino's was well-received. Due to the greater-than-expected number of attendees, there was a focus on finding a larger venue for next year. Suggestions included the City Hall Courtyard (weather permitting), Chandler Center for the Arts, and Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

Other suggestions included:

- Lining up recruits in order (possibly instead of taking up seating)
- Asking MC to announce the refreshments at the end of the event
- Designating which Council members and/or Commissioners will be distributing certificates and coins, and improving the handoff
- Asking recruiters to bring their backdrops for photos
- Printing blank certificates to handle last-minute additions
- Background music pre-event

6. Discuss updates regarding external events

There were no updates.

7. Discuss annual report/memo to Council

The Commission reviewed the draft memo, with a few suggestions: (1) adding event dates, (2) clarifying the time period for the review, and (3) including stats/KPIs in future reviews.

Briefing

8. Presentation on resources provided by the city's Community Development Division - Misty Gustafson, Homeless Programs Supervisor

Item moved to the beginning of the meeting per Chair Levinson

Ms. Gustafson presented on the resources provided by the Community Development Division to persons experiencing homelessness. She highlighted partnerships with nonprofits and the VA, as well as success stories with local veterans.

Member Comments/Announcements

Comm. Baker inquired when the Veterans Day and the Military Appreciation Breakfast were held; there was brief discussion.

Calendar

9. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting will be held June 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago St.

Information Items

10. Treasury Report - Luke Cerré, Commission Secretary

Mr. Cerré provided an update on the treasury, advising that some transactions were still pending for both recent events.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.



Luke Cerré, Secretary



Shane Levinson, Chair