

**CITY OF SURPRISE
VETERANS, DISABILITY, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**November 13, 2024 | 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wisniewski called the Veterans, Disability, and Human Services Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Surprise City Hall, 16000 North Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374, on November 13, 2024.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair Allison Wisniewski, Vice-Chair Dr. Gwen Maxfield and Commissioners Shawna Daigle, Julie Kent- Partridge, John Billcheck, Olivia Fryer and Hasan Reed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Community Initiatives Supervisor Danielle Osborne, Administrative Specialist Athba Arnold, Administrative Specialist Victoria Simmons.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Wisniewski reported on the following:

- SciTech Festival
 - Saturday, November 16th from 10:00am – 2:00pm
 - Mark Coronado Park
 - STEAM demonstrations and giveaways
 - surpriseaz.gov/SciTech
- City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28th, and Friday, November 29th, in observance of Thanksgiving

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Kent-Partridge
 - Attended Disabilities Roundtable; collaborative conversation and many resources being shared
 - VA Pathways Mental Health Resilience Conference
 - GAIN Night: great turnout; would like to discuss more at a future meeting
 - City of Surprise Veteran's Day Parade; great turnout
- Commissioner Billcheck
 - Veteran's Day Parade: wonderful event

- Commissioner Fryer
 - West Valley Impact Collective: non-profits came together in Surprise
 - Roundtable on Autism
 - Mesa Community College: brown bag session for Vets, those with Disabilities, and the neurodiverse population
 - SAARC has scholarships available
 - Attended City Council Meeting for National Disability Employment Month Proclamation
 - Best of the West by WestMarc awards
 - GAIN Night
 - Disabilities Roundtable
 - Veteran's Day Parade
 - Challenge Coin provided to organization named Hadley's Hope
- Vice-Chair Maxfield
- Commissioner Reed
 - Lou Malnati's Alice Cooper Foundation event
 - Veteran's Day Parade; has ideas to make it better
- Chair Wisniewski
 - City Council Proclamation with Spencer's Place
 - GAIN Night; had a great time with a lot of people
 - Rotary Club of Surprise in Sun City West
 - All military branches were honored
 - Veteran's Day Parade; more people were in the parade; proud and honored to have been a part of it

STAFF REPORT

- Ms. Osborne discussed:
 - Mayor's Veterans Roundtable
 - Wednesday, November 20th, from 8:00am – 10:00am at the Surprise Regional Library
 - Representatives from Surprise-area organizations who serve Veterans will share and collaborate on programs and resources available to them
 - Housing & Community Services team was a finalist for a Best of the West award through WestMarc
 - Introduced Human Services & Community Vitality Administrative Specialist, Victoria Simmons, who will serve as new VDHS liaison

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Steffan Hanzel: spoke on his time on the VDHS Commission; urges the Commission to reach out to Council to get the City of Surprise certified as Autism-friendly; Working groups: would love to see the Commission engage and collaborate more in the community

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the October 9, 2024 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Daigle moved to approve the October 9, 2024 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

Item 2 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to MIND 24-7.

Vice President of Partner Strategy, Libby Pierce, presented on MIND 24-7's catalog of programs and services offered.

Item 3 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Native American Connections HomeBase.

Senior Director of Property Management, Jennifer Jennings, presented on the mission and services offered by HomeBase in Surprise.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Hadley's Hope
- G.A.I.N. Night
- Commissioner Daigle stepped down from the Commission

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Daigle moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on November 13, 2024 at 7:13pm. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

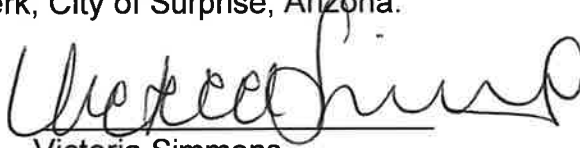

Danielle Osborne
Community Initiatives Supervisor



Allison Wisniewski
Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Chair

The foregoing instrument is a full, true, and correct copy of the original document on file in the office of the City Clerk, City of Surprise, Arizona.

ATTEST BY:



Victoria Simmons
Administrative Specialist

DATE:

12/11/2024