

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

**June 11, 2025 | 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 June 11, 2025.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair Allison Wisniewski, Vice-Chair Dr. Gwen Maxfield, Commissioners Julie Kent- Partridge, John Billcheck, Olivia Fryer, Michael Tree, and Charles Manuel.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Services and Community Vitality Director, Seth Dyson and Administrative Specialist, Victoria Simmons.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Wisniewski reported on the following:

- Join us for a meaningful and fun-filled Day of Service, as we come together to support our U.S. Troops! Volunteers of all ages will help decorate care package boxes, write heartfelt cards and create patriotic crafts that will be sent to active-duty military members. Partnering with Youth for Troops and the WHAM Art Center, we invite you to be part of this special experience that honors our service members through art, gratitude, and community spirit. The project will be held at the Surprise City Hall Community Room, this Saturday, June 14, at 8:00 a.m. Registration is required. If you have questions about this or any other Surprise Day of Service event, call 623.222.1612.
- City of Surprise administrative offices will be closed Thursday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.
- Surprise City Council approved funding to support the Neighborhood Grant Program, which provides eligible neighborhoods with small grants to fund neighborhood events, functions or community improvements. Recognizing an opportunity to encourage community engagement and further build strong relationships with Surprise's communities, the city designated \$10,000 to support the grant program for Fiscal Year 2026. A pre-application meeting providing

information about the program and the application process will be held on Monday, June 30 at 5 p.m. at Surprise City Hall, Council Overflow Room. For more information about the Neighborhood Grant Program, visit surpriseaz.gov/NGP.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Kent- Partridge
 - Attended Phoenix VA Mental Health Advocacy Council Meeting. Received updates about the Mental Health Summit, which will take place in October of 2025. More updates and invites to come.
 - Attended Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veteran's Cemetery sponsored by the Phoenix VA. This event was led by veteran and Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes.
 - Attended Accessible Transportation Meeting hosted by Mayor Sartor. The meeting discussed advocacy and matters related to those with disabilities needing transportation in the City of Surprise.
 - Attended DDD Summer Forum
- Commissioner Fryer
 - Attended Vet Fest
 - Attended Mental Health Day in Phoenix
 - Attended Banner Health Neurodiverse Community Stakeholders Meeting. The meeting discussed ways that Banner can support the neurodiverse community even further.
 - Attended City of Surprise Adaptative Easter Egg Hunt
 - Attended community discussion on Medicaid, held by First Place
 - Attended premiere event held by Raising Special Kids, to reveal their new name, Encircle Families
 - Attended Mayor's Meeting on Accessible Transportation
 - Attended DDD Summer Forum
- Vice Chair Maxfield
 - Attended Surprise Resource Center Quarterly Meeting
 - Attended Police Chief Finalist Meet and Greet. Met new Police Chief, Evan Becher
- Commissioner Billcheck
 - Attended Surprise Quarterly Meeting, where resource partners connected and shared resources for the community
 - Attended Surprise Transportation meeting, where more information was shared on alternative options of transportation for those with disabilities
 - Next Mayor's Roundtable on Disabilities is on July 9th, 2025
- Commissioner Tree
 - Attended City of Glendale, Mayor's Triple M (Mayor's Military Mission). Upcoming events include:
 - Mayor's Stand Up for Veterans, on October 11, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Arizona Christian University
 - Retiree Appreciation Day, on October 18, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. hosted by Luke Air Force Base. The event includes speakers and a resource fair.
- Chair Wisniewski

- Attended Police Chief Finalist meeting. Met and congratulated the new Police Chief, Even Becher.
- Attended event for veterans at the DAV, Glendale - Chapter 20, on June 7, 2025

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Dyson discussed:

- Danielle Osborne will be out on maternity leave. Please welcome new HSCV baby.
- Challenge Coins order has been finalized. More details to come.
- Memorial bench project has officially been stopped due to budget authority
- WE RIDE will be ceasing at the end of the month but will continue to run until June 30, 2025. There will be eligibility changes to Ride Choice. ADA certified clients and Veterans will remain eligible. Seniors will lose access, unless they are ADA accessible. City of Surprise is working on a pilot program for accessible transportation. More details to come.
- Shout out to Jennifer Cornelius and her team at the Surprise Resource Center, for serving over 18,000 people throughout the year.
- Heat Relief Centers within the City of Surprise include Surprise libraries and the Surprise Resource Center.
- Home repair program offered through Maricopa County, to help with AC repair. For more information, please contact Surprise Resource Center.
- Thanks to the Commission, the Surprise Police Department and HSCV department are autism certified through IBCCES.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the May 14, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Kent-Partridge moved to approve the May 14, 2025, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Tree seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

Item 2 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Luke Air Force Base EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program)

Family Support Navigator, Alizabeth Dang and Family Support Coordinator, Linda Rainey presented on the services provided to military families through the EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program).

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion and action pertaining to the process and application form for the selection of the 2025 Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal.

Seth Dyson presented on the process and application form, for the selection of the 2025 Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal. Final details were discussed with the Commissioners. Commissioner Billcheck moved to approve the application form for the 2025 Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal. Vice Chair Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

Item 4 – Citywide – Discussion and action pertaining to the FY2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting calendar.

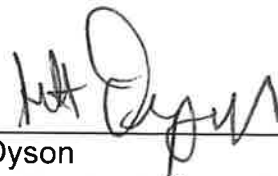
The Commission meeting calendar was reviewed for FY2026. Commissioner Kent-Partridge made a motion to approve the FY2026 Veterans, Disability & Humans Services Commission meeting calendar. Commissioner Tree seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

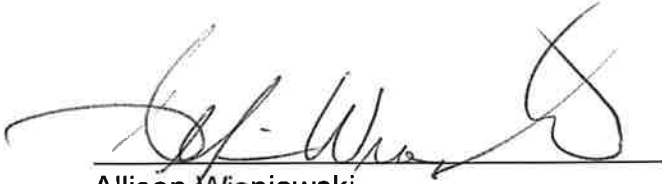
- Future Commissioner meeting for strategic planning

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Kent-Partridge moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on June 11, 2025, 2024 at 6:47 p.m. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 votes.



Seth Dyson
Human Service & Community Vitality Director



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:

8/13/2025

