



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service Commission
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Current Events and Reports
- E. Staff Reports
- F. Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the Board\Commission, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H) - During this time members of the public may address the Board\Commission only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Board\Commission which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, the Board\Commission may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC HEARING:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- 1. Citywide Consideration and action pertaining to the September 10, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Human Svcs and Comm Vitality
- 2. Citywide Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Arizona Department of Labor. Human Svcs and Comm Vitality
- G. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
- H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Monday, October 6th, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service
Commission

Council Meeting Date: October 8, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action pertaining to the September 10, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the September 10, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

N/A

Objective Analysis:

N/A

Policy Compliant:

This item is compliant with City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 9.10.25 VDHS Commission Minutes - DRAFT
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**CITY OF SURPRISE
VETERANS, DISABILITY, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 10, 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 September 10, 2025.

ROLL CALL

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

Absences: Commissioner Olivia Fryer (excused)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Services and Community Vitality Director, Seth Dyson, Community Initiatives Supervisor, Danielle Osborne and Administrative Specialist, Victoria Simmons.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Tree reported on the following:

- Join us for the Surprise Day of Service, on September 11, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall. Come show your support for our Surprise Police and Surprise Fire-Medical Department, by donating blood and helping to save lives in our community! Visit vitalant.org to make an appointment using Blood Drive Code P1T62. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments will be given priority. During the event, members of the community are also encouraged to participate in a hygiene items and clothing drive. For more information on items needed or details about the September Day of Service, please visit surpriseaz.gov/DayofService.
- The City of Surprise proudly celebrates its designation as a Golden Rule Community through the annual Surprise Area Interfaith & Golden Rule Community Breakfast. This uplifting event brings together leaders from local government, faith communities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to honor those who exemplify kindness, compassion, and dedicated community service. This free community event will take place on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 8 AM – 10 AM. During the program, the Surprise Veterans, Disability & Human Services

Commission will present the Surprise Community Legend Awards, recognizing recipients in the categories of Individual Legend, Outstanding Youth, Volunteer of the Year and Organization of the Year. Registration opens on August 14, and space is limited. To RSVP, please visit surpriseaz.gov/GoldenRuleRSVP.

- The City of Surprise, in partnership with ARIZONA@WORK, is hosting a free hiring event on Thursday, September 25, to connect job seekers with more than 20 different employers currently hiring in the West Valley. The hiring event will be held from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Surprise Regional Library, 16089 N. Bullard Ave. Job seekers can meet potential employers and establish professional relationships in a convenient, time-saving setting. Prospective candidates should come to the event ready for potential onsite interviews and possible job offers. Attendees will also have a chance to learn about ARIZONA@WORK and the different services and resources they provide to help job seekers pursue employment opportunities.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge
 - Attended VA Mental Health Advocacy Council, on August 28
 - Presentation on veterans' court, more information to come
 - Attended tour of the Veterans Community Project (VCP) on September 1, in Longmont, Colorado
 - Attended VCP meeting in Glendale, on September 9 - VCP is scheduled to break ground in the upcoming weeks
 - Upcoming event on October 11, 2025, for the 12th Annual Stand Up for veterans – held at the Arizona Christian University in Glendale
- Commissioner Wisniewski
 - Attended meeting of Grand Marshal, Leo Pooley, a 100-year-old veteran
 - Attended VCP meeting on September 9, in Glendale
 - Attended Vet Fest Advisory Committee on September 9
 - Attended Josh Mach's Sand Box, at Marley Park Heritage Club
 - Josh Mach also hosts an informative podcast for veterans and first responders
- Commissioner Maxfield
 - Attended meeting of Grand Marshall, Leo Pooley, who will be named at the upcoming 2025 Veterans Day Parade
 - Attended Vet Fest Advisory Meeting on September 9
- Commissioner Billcheck
 - Attended Surprise City Council Meeting regarding the vision of the VDHS Commission
 - Met Grand Marshal, Leo Pooley – presented him with a challenge coin
- Commissioner Manuel
 - Working in Phoenix with USS Phoenix Cold War Monument group – next target will include locating Native Americans who have served in the submarine service
- Chair Tree
 - Attended Vet Fest Advisory Committee Meeting
 - Regional Manager of Mission BBQ in Surprise, offered facilities for VFW or American Legion Post organizations to host their meetings for free
 - Presented Regional Manager with challenge coin

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to the CDBG and HOME Needs Hearing for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and Second Year Annual Action Plan.

Adam Lane presented on the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and Second Year Annual Action Plan pertaining to the CDBG and HOME Needs Hearing.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 2 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the August 13, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Billcheck moved to approve the August 13, 2025, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 6 Yes votes and 1 absence (Fryer).

Item 3 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion by The Home of Record Project.

Founder, Gary Schell, presented on the services offered to veterans by The Home of Record Project.

Item 4 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors

Assistance Director, Cindy Casaus, presented on the services offered to service members, veterans, and their spouses, through the Arizona Registrar of Contractors.

Item 5 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the potential division of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission.

During a previous Commission meeting, Director Dyson presented on the City Council's recommendation to split the existing VDHS commission into two. Mr. Dyson presented the Commissioner's feedback to the City Council. He provided an update today, and the

Commissioners continued their discussion on naming of future commissions, continuing existing projects, and timing of the division.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Presentation by Veteran Legal Services
- Discussion about having Veterans Court in Surprise
- Collect inventory of support groups for veterans in Surprise and potentially bring to the City of Surprise

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wisniewski moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on September 10, 2025, at 7:16 p.m. Commissioner Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 6 votes and 1 absence (Fryer).

Seth Dyson
Human Service & Community Vitality Director

Michael Tree
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: _____



**CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service
Commission**

Council Meeting Date: October 8, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Arizona Department of Labor.

Motion:

Discussion and presentation only.

Background:

The Arizona Department of Labor will discuss details about the Veterans' Employment and Training Services (VETS) program.

Objective Analysis:

To promote quality of life, accessibility and equity for all residents of Surprise, including those who are veterans or who experience disabilities, through cooperation with Surprise residents and any veterans, disability and human service organizations that serve the residents of Surprise.

Policy Compliant:

This item is compliant with City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
