

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

**October 8, 2025 | 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Tree 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 October 8, 2025.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Community Initiatives Supervisor, Danielle Osborne and Administrative Specialist, Victoria Simmons.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Tree reported on the following:

- Surprise Day of Service, on November 15, from 8 – 11 a.m. in the Community Room of City Hall. In preparation for the Care Packages for U.S. Troops Day of Service event on November 15, the city is hosting a donation drive November 1 - 14. For a complete list of donation items and drop-off locations, please visit surpriseaz.gov/DayofService.
- The City of Surprise hosts its annual Veterans Day Parade on November 11.
- City of Surprise administrative offices will be closed Tuesday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.
- HOA Summit on November 12, from 6 – 8 p.m., in the Public Safety Building. Individuals can join in person or log on from home via the virtual option. Registration is required for both virtual and in person options.
- On November 22, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Surprise Recreation Campus, the City will host the 2025 SciTech Festival. For more details, or to register to become a Sponsor or Exhibitor, please visit surpriseaz.gov/SciTech
- The City of Surprise is excited to present the 4th Annual Sensitive Santa Experience, in partnership with the Autism Society of Greater Phoenix and T.E.A.M. 4 Kids,

celebrating their 12th Annual event. This event will take place on Saturday, December 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Surprise Stadium. For assistance or more information, email ashley.stevens@surpriseaz.gov or call 623.222.2284.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge
 - Attended Golden Rule Breakfast on September 16
 - Chair Tree announced Community Legend Award winners
 - More details to come, regarding Veterans Courts and having someone speak and present to the VDHS Commission
 - Attended VA Community Mental Health Summit today
 - This year's focus is "You Matter: Upstream Suicide Prevention"
- Commissioner Fryer
 - Presented three challenge coins recently
 - Demetrius Themistocles, who is an Attorney, Advisor, and Ethics Official at Luke Air Force Base
 - Samuel Smith, with the School Liaison Program, at Luke Air Force Base
 - Shawna Sanford Smith, who is a Neurodiverse Counselor with Charlie Health
 - Attended Mayor's Roundtable on Disabilities today
- Commissioner Maxfield
 - Attended Golden Rule Breakfast
 - Attended Mayor's Faith Leader Summit
 - Attended Hope Fest, in Prescott
- Commissioner Wisniewski
 - Attended Golden Rule Breakfast
- Commissioner Manuel
 - Attended American Legion Post meeting, here in Surprise
 - A lot more work to do for veterans in the community
 - Will be working with Soldiers Best Friend, in Peoria, for Service Animal training
- Chair Tree
 - Attended Golden Rule Breakfast on September 16
 - Was able to present awards to the Community Legend Award winners
 - Glendale Stand Up for Veterans on October 11, 2025, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Arizona Christian University

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Osborne discussed:

- October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, as proclaimed by Mayor Sartor during last night's City Council meeting.
 - City Hall and the Public Safety Building have been lit purple to recognize and raise awareness around this initiative.
- For those wanting to provide tangible support, donations are being accepted at Surprise City Hall in support of Hope Women's Center from October 1-23.

- All month long, the community is invited to visit the Surprise Resource Center to see a display of artwork created by victims and survivors of domestic violence. The artwork illustrates their experience and brings awareness to the effects of domestic violence in our communities.
- Surprise Resource Center partners year-round with the Sojourner Center and Eve's Place to offer support to domestic violence victims and survivors. For more information about these services, please call 623.222.1600.
- If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, you can also call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or visit TheHotline.org

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 September 10, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Kent Partridge moved to approve the September 10, 2025, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

Item 2 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Arizona Department of Labor.

Due to the government shutdown, the scheduled presenter was unable to attend the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on October 8, 2025, at 6:24 p.m. Commissioner Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 votes.



Danielle Osborne
Community Initiative Supervisor



~~Michael Tree~~ Julie Kent-Partridge
Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission ~~Chair~~ Vice-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:

10/8/25
