



**CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service Commission
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council Chamber doors will open at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

- 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 May 8, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 3. | Citywide | Discussion and action pertaining to the 2026 Surprise Community Legend Awards application and timeline. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 4. | Citywide | Discussion and action pertaining to the 2026 Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal selection process, application, and timeline. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |

G. Other Business and Future Agenda Items

H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 @ 10:45am

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: June 10, 2026 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 May 8, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the May 8, 2026 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. 5.13.26 VDHS Commission Minutes - DRAFT
-

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

**May 13 | 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 May 13, 2026.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

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

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Tree reported on the following:

- Join us for a virtual HOA Summit on Wednesday, May 20, from 6 – 8 p.m. The HOA Summit is a two-hour event designed to discuss community resources, housing trends and expert presentations for Homeowners Association (HOA) board members, property management teams and homeowners alike. Collaborate with other communities, gather valuable information and resources and help us keep Surprise connected! Please visit surpriseaz.gov/HOASummit for additional event details and to register. This event is presented by the City of Surprise Human Service & Community Vitality Department and Mulcahy Law Firm, P.C. For more information, please email daisy.vargas@surpriseaz.gov or call 623.222.1612.
- City of Surprise administrative offices will be closed Monday, May 25, 2026, due to the Memorial Day holiday.
- Join us at St. Mary's Food Bank to assist with sorting and packing food, assisting clients and packing Kid's Cafe meals. Volunteer opportunities start at 7:15 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and noon. Youth ages 12 and over are invited to participate, however all participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required through St. Mary's Foodbank; this process will require you to create an account on their website first. For questions about this event or volunteer opportunities, please call

Daisy Vargas at 623.222.1612.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Wisniewski
 - Attended Vet Fest on April 11
 - Attended various ceremonies at The Wall That Heals
 - Attended Mayor's Veteran Roundtable on May 6
- Commissioner Billcheck
 - Attended Vet Fest on April 11
 - Visited Wall that Heals and attended several events
- Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge
 - Attended all of the daily events at The Wall that Heals from April 9 – 12
 - Attended Vet Fest
 - Attended State of the City event on April 14 at the Surprise ballpark
 - Attended City of Surprise Lifestyle Influential Women's Celebration held at the West Valley Arts HQ Gallery on April 21
 - Attended Hidden Talent Small Business Hiring Event on May 7
 - Held at Spencer's Place and hosted by SPARK by City of Surprise
 - For individuals with developmental disabilities
- Commissioner Maxfield
 - Volunteered for an overnight shift at The Wall That Heals on April 8 – 9
 - Attended opening ceremony for The Wall That Heals on April 9
 - Attended candlelight ceremony on April 10
 - Attended closing ceremony on April 12
 - Attended Vet Fest on April 11
 - Volunteered at Teen Challenge on April 13
 - Attended the State of the City event on April 14
 - Attended tour of the new Surprise Community Resource Center on April 15
 - Visited Lift Arizona on April 24
 - Attended Mayor's Veteran Roundtable on May 6
 - Attended Vet Fest Planning Advisory Committee meeting
- Commissioner Fryer
 - Honored to receive award from Dysart Special Education PTSA
 - Attended Mayor's Roundtable on Disabilities
 - Attended Vet Fest
 - Attended the daily events at The Wall That Heals
 - Completed Surprise City Academy
 - Attended tour of the new Surprise Community Resource Center
 - Attended and led panel at Maricopa County exceptional worker's summit on April 16
 - Invited and approved to join Phoenix's Police Department Cross-Disability Advisory Board
- Commissioner Manuel
 - Attended two American Legion meetings
 - Received great feedback about Vet Fest
 - Attended Mayor's Veteran Roundtable
 - Attended Southwest Veterans Committee Car Museum and dinner
- Chair Tree

- Visited The Wall that Heals and many of the daily events
- Attended Vet Fest
- Attended Mayor’s Veteran Roundtable
- Attended State of the City
- Completed City Academy
- Attended groundbreaking for the new police station

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Dyson discussed:

- Thank you to the Sports, Entertainment & Culture Department for applying and bringing the Wall that Heals to Surprise. Thank you to all who helped and for all the hard work that was put into setting it up and disassembling.
- Ashley Ware, City Librarian, presented the top 3 library card designs for the commissioners to vote on. This year’s designs were centered around America’s 250th Anniversary.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 - Consideration and action pertaining to the April 8, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Vice-chair Kent-Partridge moved to approve the April 8, 2026, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to details and results of Vet Fest 2026.

Not My Kid gave a presentation about their non-profit and the different programs offered.

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to details and results of Vet Fest 2026.

Seth Dyson shared the results for Vet Fest 2026. The commissioners discussed details about the final outcome and shared feedback.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Veteran Resource Navigator from the Surprise Resource Center
- Missing in America Project, non-profit organization

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on May 13, 2026, at 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

Seth Dyson
Human Services and 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: June 10, 2026 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations: None

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

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona.

Motion:

Presentation and discussion only.

Background:

The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona will give a presentation on the different services offered through their organization.

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:

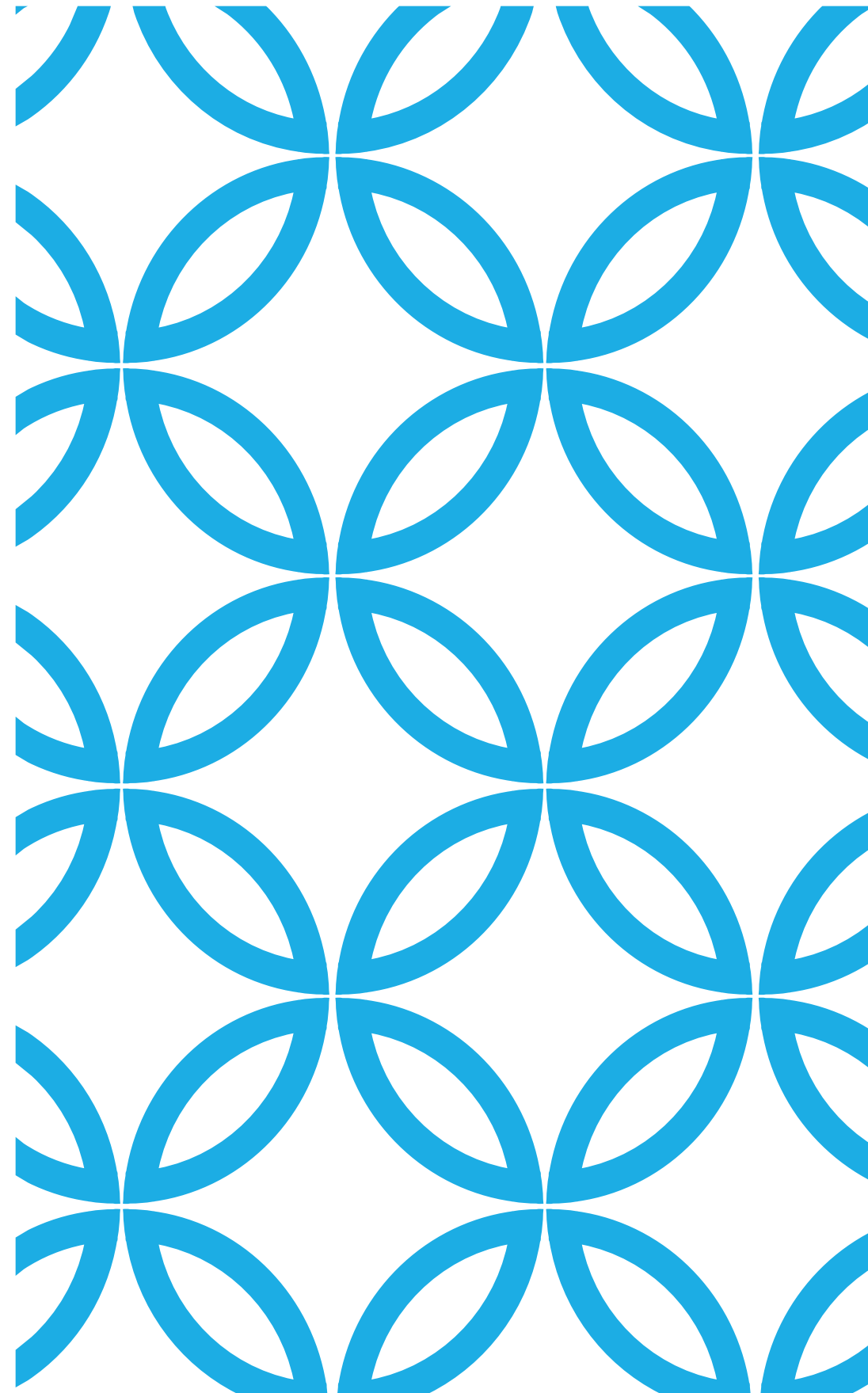
N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Surprise Presentation PP
-



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: SUPPORT FOR BRAIN INJURY SURVIVORS & CAREGIVERS



Luke Fadell, Veterans Services

AGENDA ITEMS

- Meet the Brain Injury Association of Arizona
- Introduction to Brain Injury
- Effects of Brain Injury on Daily Life
- Opportunities for Partnership
- Practical Support & Referral

MEET YOUR BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA

Founded in 1983 - Statewide Nonprofit Serving Survivors of All Types of Brain Injury

Work With Community Professionals to Make Over 900 Referrals Every Month, Connecting Survivors with Vetted Resources

Support, Resource Facilitation and Education for Caregivers, Family Members, and Survivors

Services Are Provided Free to the Community Thanks to Donors, Contracts, and Grant Support

Offer Helpline, Virtual and In-Person Support Groups, Empowerment Activities, Educational Conferences, and Trainings

Brain Injury

A brain injury is caused by trauma, illness, or medical conditions that affects its normal function, often caused by trauma, illness, or medical conditions.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Blow or jolt to the head from an accident, fall or violence.

Acquired Brain Injury

Medical complication that impacts the brain such as a stroke, heart attack or

Life risk factors:

- Veterans who served in combat
- Survivors of domestic violence
- Survivors of childhood physical trauma
- Traumatic vehicle accidents
- Multiple "minor" concussions
- Substance use
- Formerly incarcerated individuals



Common Causes & Risk Factors of Brain Injury

1 Common Causes

Falls, vehicle accidents, sports injuries, and violence are among the most common causes of brain injury.



Falls



Vehicle
Accidents



Sports
Injuries



Violence

2 Key Risk Factors

Risk factors include age, specific occupations, substance use, and pre-existing health conditions.



Age



Specific
Occupations



Substance
Use



Pre-existing
Health
Conditions

TYPES OF BRAIN INJURY

Acquired Brain Injury



Non-Traumatic Brain Injury

Anoxia/Hypoxia

- Near Drowning
- Strangulation
- Opioid Overdose
- Cardiac Arrest

Chemical Exposure

Infections/Diseases

Metabolic Disorders

Strokes

Tumors

Traumatic Brain Injury

Closed Brain Injury (internal pressure and shearing)

- Assault/Abuse
- Blast Exposure
- Falls
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Struck by/
Against an Object

Open Brain Injury (penetrating injuries)

- Assault/Abuse
- Falls
- Gunshot
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Struck by/
Against an Object
- Surgical Procedures

info@biaaz.org | BIAAZ.org | Helpline 888-500-9165

TYPICAL SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS

Common Physical Symptoms

Symptoms such as headaches and dizziness often indicate underlying health issues requiring attention.

Cognitive and Emotional Signs

Memory problems and mood changes can signal neurological or psychological conditions.

Coordination and Speech Difficulties

Struggles with coordination or speech may suggest neurological impairments needing early diagnosis.

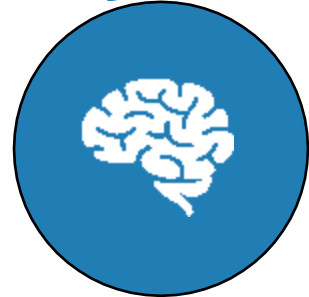


Brain Injury Can “Look” Like Other Things: Brain Injury vs Mental Illness

Brain Injury

Mental Illness

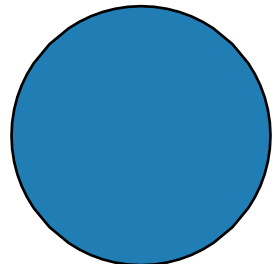
Cognition



- Has problems answering when in loud/unfamiliar places.
- Has problems following multi-step directions.
- Problems following through on things.

- Difficulty with paying attention when overwhelmed.
- Disorganized thinking, such as jumping from subject to subject.

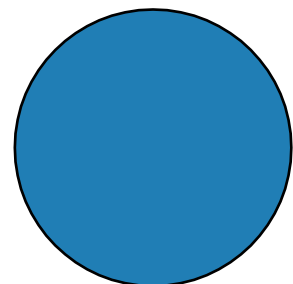
Emotional



- Becomes more frustrated with more verbal information.
- Easily stressed in loud or unfamiliar environments.

- Noted increase in emotional dysregulation when not medicated (if regularly on medications)
- Heightened emotional responses.

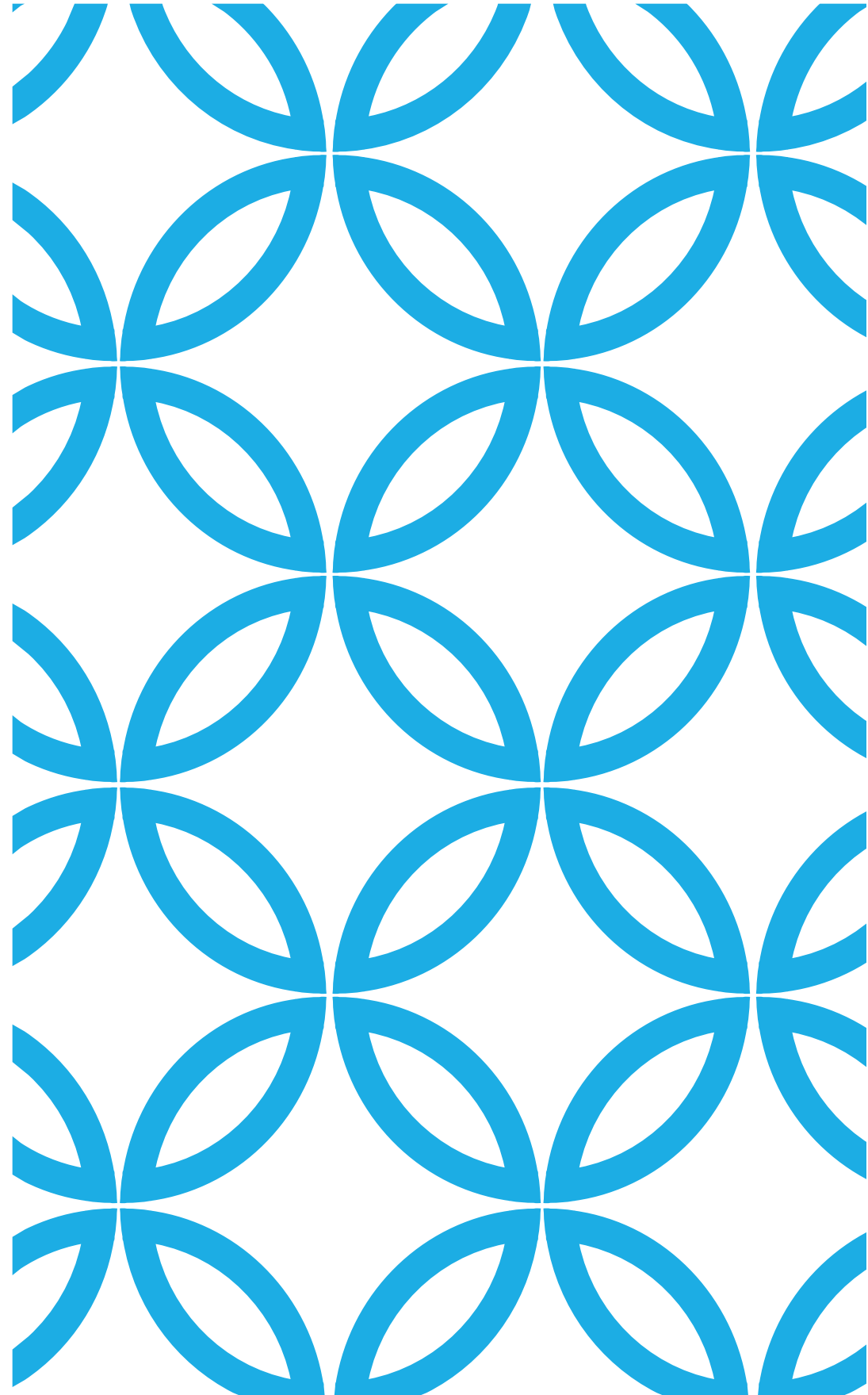
Communication



- Long pauses before answering questions.
- Answers questions with unrelated information (tangential).

- Provides information before question is answered.
- Communication may appear “frantic”.

Appropriate diagnosis and referral is key



EFFECTS OF BRAIN INJURY ON DAILY LIFE



POSSIBLE PHYSICAL IMPACTS AND CHALLENGES

Weakness and Fatigue

Weakness and fatigue reduce energy levels, impacting daily activities and overall mobility.

Seizures

Seizures can disrupt normal bodily functions, posing serious health risks and safety concerns.

Balance and Coordination Problems

Issues with balance and coordination limit independence and increase risk of falls.



COGNITIVE AND EMOTIONAL CHANGES

Memory Loss Impact

Memory loss affects daily functioning and the ability to recall important information and events.

Concentration Difficulties

Difficulty concentrating leads to challenges in completing tasks and maintaining focus.

Mood and Anxiety Changes

Mood swings, anxiety, and depression significantly impact emotional well-being and quality of life.



SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL CONSEQUENCES

Communication Challenges

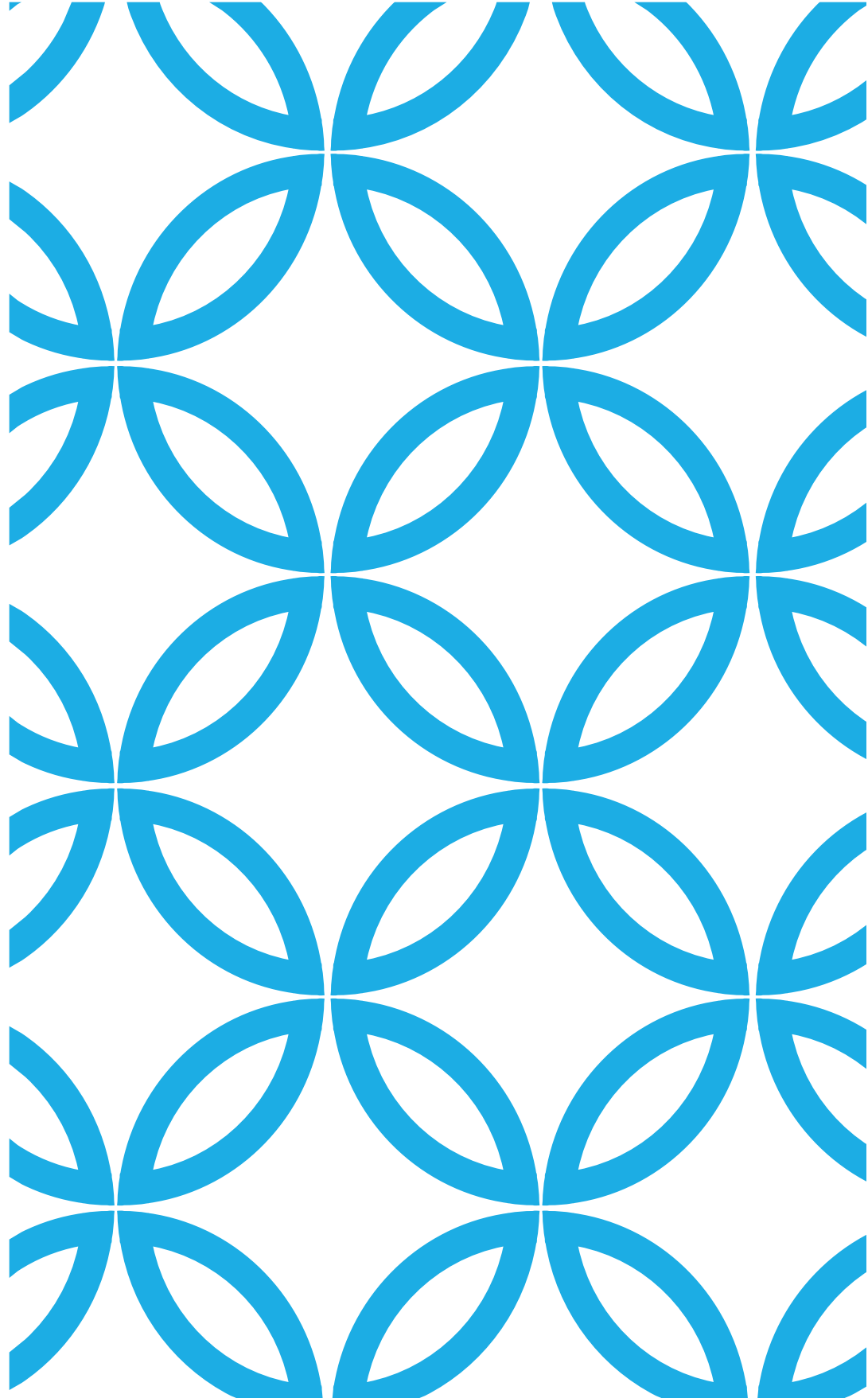
Brain injury can impair communication skills, affect speech clarity and understanding in social situations.

Altered Social Behavior

Injuries may lead to changes in social behavior, causing misunderstandings and difficulties in relationships.

Isolation Risks

Affected individuals often face isolation or challenges in personal and professional environments.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP

BUILDING A COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK FOR SURVIVORS & CAREGIVERS LOOKS LIKE:

Donor & Foundation Support Resources from the community are providing services for brain injury, making them accessible and meeting survivors where they are.

Local, State, & Federal Contracts: Providing services for brain injury, making them accessible to the established disability community, and stabilizing those new to disability. Public dollars are supporting integrated, coordinated support for people with TBI that yields a 9:1 return-on-investment through reduced recidivism, support engaging in addiction services, adaptive recreation, socialization to reduce isolation, and unpaid caregiver support.

Referrals from Human Service Organizations

Behavioral health, community, and healthcare workers are knowledgeable about brain injury and making referrals to BIAAZ so we can meet community members where they are in community systems of service.

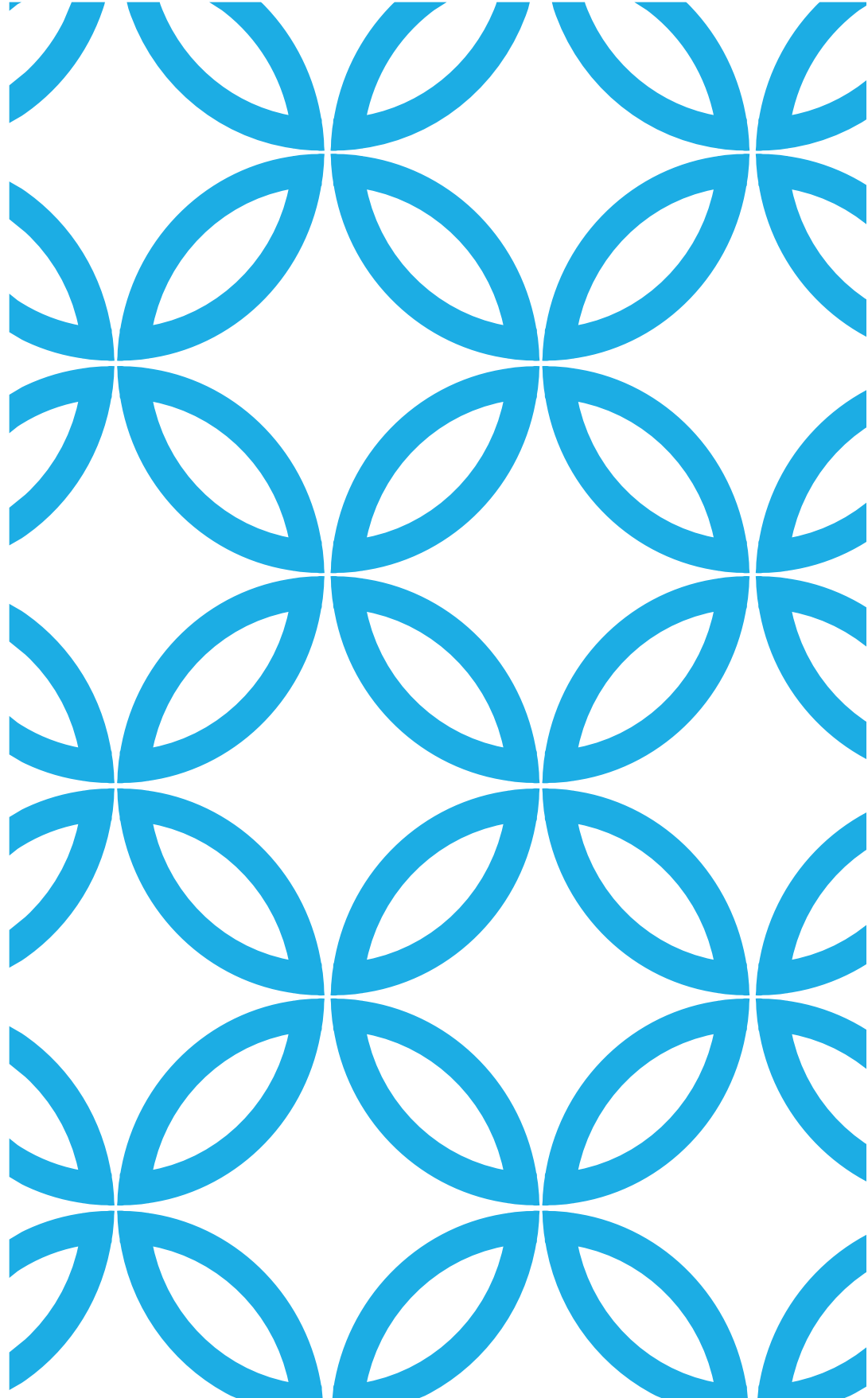
PILOT PROGRAMS IN GILBERT & CHANDLER

Caregiver Listening Sessions Hosted for Future Resource Deployment & Program Expansion

Case Management for Homeless Survivors

Local Educational & Social Activities Hosted To Build Up Brain Injury Community

Support During Treatment for Survivors with Substance Misuse



PRACTICAL SUPPORT & REFERRAL

REFER TO YOUR BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA TODAY



Helpline Available

Helpline staffed Monday-Friday by a Certified Brain Injury Specialist to answer questions and offer resource facilitation.



Survivor & Provider Referral

Survivors can self-refer online through formal intake or email or social media. Providers can send in referrals using online referral form.



Phoenix Walk-In Hours

Office in the Ability 360 Center staffed Monday – Friday, 9 AM-5 PM. Veterans staff located on Keys to Change Campus Monday- Wednesday.



Support for Your Next Steps



Brain Injury Association
of Arizona

BIAAZ.org

602-508-8024

Helpline: 888-500-9165

Info@biaaz.org





CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service
Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 10, 2026 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:

Discussion and action pertaining to the 2026 Surprise Community Legend Awards application and timeline.

Motion:

I move to approve the 2026 Surprise Community Legend Awards program application and timeline.

Background:

The Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission will have its fourth annual Community Legend Awards Program, an opportunity to celebrate people and organizations whose actions have made a positive impact on the Surprise Community.

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 City and Council policy compliant.

Financial Impact:

If approved, this program will incur costs from the FY2027 budget related to the awards presentation for recipients.

Budget Impact:

If approved, costs incurred will be allocated from the FY2027 budget.

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2026 Online App-Community Legend Award Program
 2. 2026 VDHS Community Legend Award Program pdf
-

Surprise Community Legend Awards Program Nomination Form

Surprise Community Legend Awards Program is an opportunity to honor those in our City whose efforts are making a positive impact on the community. The City of Surprise Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission created this program to celebrate the actions of individuals and groups, showcasing how people are making a difference in Surprise.

Criteria for the selection of a Surprise Community Legend:

Applicants must be able to show how the nominee has contributed to improving the quality of life of others by:

- Measurably improving the lives of vulnerable Surprise residents through grassroots efforts.
- Promoting quality of life, accessibility and equity for all residents of Surprise.
- Linking residents to programs that offer the support needed for a fuller, safer lifestyle.

Nominees must fall into one or more of the following categories:

- **Individual Legend** (Must be a Surprise resident for at least 2 years)
- **Outstanding Youth** (Must be aged 18 or younger)
- **Volunteer of the Year** (Organizational affiliation must be in the application)
- **Organization of the Year** (Private, non-profit or faith-based)

How to nominate your Surprise Community Legend:

1. Nominees must meet the criteria outlined above.
2. To nominate someone you know, complete and submit this form by **5 p.m. on July 22, 2026**.
3. Nomination forms should include sufficient information to give the Selection Committee an understanding of the contributions made by the nominee. Additional information such as letters of support, biographical information and/or information about related projects/initiatives will be accepted. Please include these with your nomination form.
4. Incomplete nomination forms will be considered void.

Submission Guidelines:

All applications must be received by **July 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

If you have any questions about the application and process, please contact Kara.Poling@surpriseaz.gov.

Name *

Email

Phone *

Address *

Briefly describe the reasons for nomination. In your response, please describe how the nominee is able to interact with and serve the community: *

Note: Please review the criteria for nominations and guidelines and ensure sufficient information is provided to give the Selection Committee an understanding of the contributions made by the nominee. (1,000 word limit)

Supporting Nomination Files

Note: Please submit any support documents or videos for your nominee. Files must be these supporting file types: PDF, DOC, DOCX, JPEG, JPG, PNG, MP4, MOV. Video submissions must be no longer than 3 minutes.



Please check the applicable nomination category or categories: *

- Individual Legend
- Outstanding Youth
- Volunteer of the Year
- Organization of the Year

How did you hear about the Recognition Program?

Nominator Information

Name *

Phone *



Email *

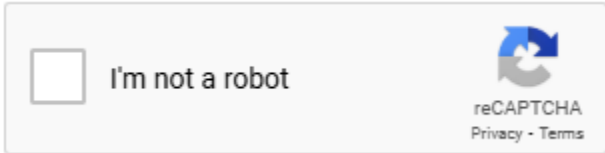


I certify that the statements made by me are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation made by me in connection with this application will be sufficient cause for rejection of this application.

Nominator Signature *

Clear

Save Signature



Cancel Submit

Surprise Community Legend Awards Program Nomination Form

Settings

Description

VDHS form for legend nominations

Success Message (Pop-up Box)

Will need to customer Form Success Message

Form Closed Message (after submission period is over)

Community Legend Awards Program Nomination Form

The 2025 Community Legend application period is closed. Award recipients will be formally recognized at the City's Annual Interfaith & Golden Rule Community Banquet in September. Visit surpriseaz.gov/CommunityLegend to learn more about this program.

Workflow

Submission Events

Email without attached PDF
To: kara.poling@surpriseaz.gov
Email Subject Line: New {FORM_NAME} Submission

Email with attached PDF

To: [Nominator Email](#)
Email Subject Line: {FORM_NAME} Received
Email Template: Generic

Your {{formName}} submission has been received

A copy of your request is attached. Please expect a follow-up from our team if additional information is needed.

Thank you!

Approval Flow

None

Surprise Community Legend Awards Program

VDHS Commission | June 10, 2026



Surprise Community Legend Program



The recognition program, presented by the City of Surprise Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission, is an opportunity to celebrate people whose actions have made a positive impact on the Surprise Community.



Selection Criteria

1. Nominees will have made a contribution to improving the quality of life for the Surprise community by:
 - Measurably improving the lives of vulnerable Surprise residents through grassroots efforts
 - Promoting quality of life, accessibility, and equity for all residents of Surprise
 - Linking residents to programs that offer the support needed for a fuller, safer lifestyle

Selection Criteria

2. Nominees must fall into one of more of the following categories:
 - Individual Legend (Individual; must be a Surprise resident for at least two years)
 - Outstanding Youth (Must be aged 18 or younger)
 - Volunteer of the Year (Organizational affiliation must be noted in the application)
 - Organization of the Year (Private, non-profit, and faith-based are acceptable)

How to Nominate

- Nominees must meet the criteria outlined in the application.
- To submit a nomination, complete and submit an application by July 22, 2026.
- Nomination forms should include sufficient information to give the Selection Committee an understanding of the contributions made by the nominee. Additional information such as letters of support, biographical information and/or information about related projects/initiatives will be accepted. Please include these with your nomination form.
- Incomplete nomination forms will be considered void.

Submission Guidelines

All applications must be received by
July 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications may be completed electronically by visiting
www.surpriseaz.gov/CommunityLegend

Paper applications are available upon request.



Application

Information Required:

1. Nominee's name, address, contact info
2. Nominator's signature and contact info
3. Brief description of the reason for nomination (1,000 word limit; video submissions no longer than 3 minutes are acceptable; supporting documents are permitted)
4. Note applicable category or categories for nominee
5. How did you hear about the Recognition Program?

Additional Information

- A webpage will be established to provide details, online application, and spotlight current and past recipients
- Plaques will be awarded to recipients
- Current Surprise Resident of at least two years
- Self-Nominations are prohibited
- Businesses/Organizations must operate out of or have a continual presence in Surprise
- Posthumous awards are accepted, however the nominee must have been deceased for at least 6 months
- A note of appreciation will be distributed to any nominee who is not among the final selected candidates
- A memo will be distributed to the City Council to notify them of the winners

Program Timeline

- June 17 – Application opens
- July 22 – Applications due
- July – Subcommittee review and recommendations determined
- August 12 – VDHS Commission Approval
- September 16 – Golden Rule & Interfaith Breakfast/Awards presented



Questions or Comments?

THANK YOU





CITY OF SURPRISE
Veteran, Disability and Human Service
Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 10, 2026 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:

Discussion and action pertaining to the 2026 Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal selection process, application, and timeline.

Motion:

I move to approve the 2026 Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal selection process, application, and timeline.

Background:

The Parks & Recreation Department has enlisted the assistance of the VDHS Commission in choosing the Grand Marshal for the 2026 Veteran's Day Parade. This item pertains to the approval of the process and application form for selecting the Grand Marshal.

Objective Analysis:

This item allows the Commission to choose the Grand Marshal for the 2026 Veteran's Day Parade.

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. 2026 Grand Marshal Program
2. 2026 Surprise Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal Application - Draft



Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal

VDHS Commission | June 10, 2026



SURPRISE
ARIZONA

Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal



The Veteran's Day Parade – Grand Marshal Nomination Program, presented by the City of Surprise Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission, is an opportunity to recognize Veterans and civilians who have made a positive impact on the community.



Selection Criteria

1. Nominees must meet the following criteria:
 - Surprise residents preferred, current or former
 - Community ties to Surprise are preferred
 - Must have some tie to the military
 - A Veteran or family member of a Veteran is preferred
 - Nominees cannot have previously served as the Grand Marshal of the Surprise Veteran's Day Parade
 - Current elected officials are not eligible
 - Current Veterans, Disability & Human Service Commissioners are not eligible
 - Self-nominations are prohibited

Selection Criteria

2. Nominations must include:

- Biography of the nominee
- Description of what the nominee has done for the Surprise community
- A description of what the nominee has done for the military, veterans or veteran service organizations
- Summary of why this nominee should be selected

How to Nominate

- Nominees must meet the criteria outlined in the application.
- To submit a nomination, complete and submit an application by August 3, 2026.
- Nomination forms should include sufficient information to give the Selection Committee an understanding of the contributions made by the nominee. Additional documents may be attached.
- Incomplete nomination forms will be considered void.

Submission Guidelines

All applications must be received by
August 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications may be completed by visiting
www.surpriseaz.gov/VeteransDay

Paper applications are available upon request.



Application

Information Required:

1. Nominee's name, address, contact info
2. Nominator's signature and contact info
3. Brief description of the reason for nomination (1,000 word limit; supporting documents are permitted)
4. Nominee's biography
5. What has the nominee done for Surprise?
6. What has the nominee done for the military, veterans or veteran service organizations?
7. Why should this nominee be selected?
8. How did you hear about the Recognition Program?

Program Timeline

- June 29 – Application opens
- August 3 – Applications due
- August – Subcommittee review and recommendations determined
- September 9 – VDHS Commission Approval
- November 11 – Grand Marshal leads the Veterans Day Parade



Questions or Comments?

THANK YOU



SURPRISE

ARIZONA



Veteran's Day Parade Grand Marshal Nomination Form



Nomination Criteria and Guidelines

The Veteran's Day Parade – Grand Marshal Nomination Program, presented by the City of Surprise Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission, is an opportunity to recognize Veterans and civilians who have made a positive impact on the community.

Criteria for the nomination and selection of a Parade Grand Marshal:

- Surprise residents preferred, current or former
- Community ties to Surprise are preferred
- Must have some tie to the military
- A Veteran or family member of a Veteran is preferred
- Nominees cannot have previously served as the Grand Marshal of the Surprise Veteran's Day Parade
- Current elected officials are not eligible
- Current Veterans, Disability & Human Service Commissioners are not eligible
- Self-nominations are prohibited

How to nominate:

1. Nominees must meet the criteria outlined above.
2. To nominate someone you know, complete and submit this form by **August 3, 2026**.
3. Nomination forms should include sufficient information to give the Selection Committee an understanding of the contributions made by the nominee. Additional documents may be attached to the application. The justification for the nominee must include the following information:
 - Biography (*required*)
 - What has the nominee done for Surprise?
 - What has the nominee done for the military, veterans or veteran service organizations?
 - Why should this nominee be selected?
4. Incomplete nomination forms will be considered void.

Submission Guidelines:

All applications must be received by **August 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please submit a completed application via email to Kara.Poling@surpriseaz.gov or drop off to the following location:

Surprise City Hall
Attn: Human Service & Community Vitality Department
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374

For more information about this program, eligibility, evaluation criteria, or the application process, please contact Kara Poling at (623) 222-1034 or Kara.Poling@surpriseaz.gov.



Veteran's Day Parade Grand Marshal Nomination Form



Nominee Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Briefly describe the reasons for nomination (attach supporting documents as needed):

Please provide sufficient information to give the Selection Committee an understanding of the contributions made by the nominee. (1,000 word limit) **NOMINATIONS DUE 8/3/2026 BY 5:00PM** to the Human Service & Community Vitality Department – Kara.Poling@surpriseaz.gov

Declaration (to be read and signed by the nominator):

I certify that the statements made by me are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation made by me in connection with this application will be sufficient cause for rejection of this application.

Nominator's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____