



MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

January 22, 2025

2:00 PM

www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory

Location:

1300 S. Grand Ave., Bldg. B
Santa Ana, CA 92705

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Steven Vargas
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL: OC Community Services Representative
PRESENT: John Burick, Erik Duane, Alexis Federico, Robert McDonald, Kathryn Morrison, Michael Radigan, Steven Vargas, Stephanie Wade
ABSENT: NONE
4. PRESENTATIONS:

OC Veterans Data Report
Michelle Aguirre, Interim County Executive Officer
Chrislyn Nefas-Ferencz, Data Analytics Sr. Manager
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
At this time, members of the public may address the Council regarding any items within the subject jurisdiction, provided that no action is taken on off-agenda items unless

authorized by law. (Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless the Chair pre-identifies a different time at the start of meeting for all public speakers).

Nick Berardino commented that a Cemetery is the #1 County Legislative priority.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

- i. Annual Report of Council Activities – Chair Steven Vargas
Recommendation: Review and approve 2024 OCVAC Annual Report of Council Activities for submission to the Board of Supervisors.
Amended Recommendation: Review, amend and approve 2024 OCVAC Annual Report of Council Activities for submission to the Board of Supervisors. Amend report to include in article IV. OCVAC's 2025 Goals – "OCVAC will continue to advocate for and support the Orange County Veterans Cemetery" and "OCVAC will make recommendations on veterans service priorities and needs based on County provided veteran data and other sources"
-Chair Steven Vargas motions; Council Member Robert McDonald seconds.
Unanimous Approval

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair, Steven Vargas

- i. Follow-Up report on VSO Metrics

8. OCVSO UPDATE: Eric Ensley, Veterans Service Officer

9. CALVET LINC UPDATE: Ben Gales, Local Interagency Network Coordinator

10. OC4VETS UPDATE: Elana E. Randol, Orange County Health Care Agency, Service Chief

11. COMMITTEES:

- i. Communications Standing Committee Report: Council Member, Robert McDonald
Events/Outreach Standing Committee Report: Council Member, Michael Radigan
- ii. Veterans' Pets Ad Hoc Committee Report: Council Member, Stephanie Wade

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

At this time, members of this Advisory Council may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters within the subject jurisdiction, provided that NO action be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Next Meeting:
March 12, 2025
2:00 PM Location – TBD

“Have We Helped A Veteran Today?”

DISCLAIMER: No member of the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council (OCVAC) shall sign a letter or make a statement purported to represent the position of OCVAC as a body. Letters or verbal statements of support or opposition on any issue shall only be made or signed by the Chair of OCVAC and shall be submitted to the Council for pre-approval. The policy of the Board of Supervisors does not allow OCVAC or its Chair to sign a letter of position on any matters pertaining to legislation. OCVAC members may write personal letters or speak as individuals stating personal positions but may not do so as representing the position or opinion of OCVAC or the County of Orange.