

Roles and Responsibilities San Mateo County Veterans Commission


JOHN D. NIBBELIN, CHIEF DEPUTY, OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL



Background re Formation of the Commission

In 2014, Board of Supervisors tasked County staff with undertaking a study to identify and address the needs of veterans residing in the County

The 2014 San Mateo County Veterans Needs Assessment found that some veterans in the County require support including with respect to:

- Accessing benefits and safety net services
 - Mental and behavioral health services
 - Affordable housing
- 

Background re Formation of the Commission

The Board of Supervisors determined that formation of a Veterans Commission would assist in identifying, studying and promoting policies to address unmet needs of County veterans


Board forms Veterans Commission by Resolution No. 073812, on June 2, 2015

Resolution No. 074159, dated November 3, 2015, increases size of Commission to 11 members

Resolution to be considered November 17, 2015, proposes to add two alternate members to the Commission

Purposes of the Commission

In forming the Commission, the Board resolved that its **purposes** would include the following:

- Promote programs to foster veterans' well-being
 - Increase visibility and understanding of issues impacting underserved veterans (seniors, women, LGBTQ, homeless)
 - Outreach and support for underserved segments of the veterans' community
 - Develop initiatives to support San Mateo County veterans and their families
 - Report and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at least once every year
- 

Structure of Commission

11 Regular, Voting Members

- Six members serving initial three-year terms
- Five members serving initial two-year terms

2 Alternate Members [pending]

- Participate/vote when a regular, voting member is absent

Reappointments authorized for up to a maximum of four (4) full three (3) year terms.

Governance of Commission

Annually selects a Chair and Vice Chair, by majority vote

Meets at least 6 times per year; establishes time and place for its meetings

Takes action by a majority vote of all regular voting members (i.e., a minimum of six votes)

May appoint ac hoc committees to develop and make recommendations to Commission

Works with Human Services Agency as administrative liaison

All meetings subject to Brown Act open meeting requirements

All documents and reports of Commission subject to Public Records Act

Must comply with the County's standing rules for boards and commissions (see Resolution No. 069276)

Duties, Functions and Powers of Commission

Advise and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

Develop and implement an annual work plan

Provide a public forum for input from veterans community to identify unmet needs

Work with existing veterans advocacy and service organizations to help coordinate systems of care and benefits

Act as an advocate for veterans; taking positions pertaining to federal, state and local policies and programs and any legislation affecting veterans and their families

Standing Rules for County Boards and Commissions (Resolution 09276)

Commission subject to the Brown Act

Subject to all applicable County policies regarding non-discrimination

Commissioners subject to applicable laws regarding conflicts of interest; must sign and return an acknowledgment that financial conflict laws apply

Avoidance of impropriety or the appearance of impropriety

Adoption of rules of procedure for the Commission; reviewed by County Counsel

Questions?

Thank you for your service!