

## Agenda

CITY COUNCIL-APPOINTED BOARDS & COMMISSIONS



**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** City Hall, Bldg. C, Conference Room B-111  
276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA

### Veterans Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

**Public Comments:** Public comments may be submitted to the Veterans Advisory Commission in the following ways:

- **In-Person comments during the meeting.** Join us for the Veterans Advisory Commission meeting at the time and location specified on this agenda to make your comments. Each person will be allotted three (3) minutes to address the Commission.
- **Submit an eComment.** Visit [www.chulavistaca.gov/boardmeetings](http://www.chulavistaca.gov/boardmeetings), locate this meeting and click on the comment bubble icon. Click on the item you wish to comment on, and then click on "Leave Comment."
- **Email comments.** Submit comments via email to [VAC@chulavistaca.gov](mailto:VAC@chulavistaca.gov)

The commenting period will close at noon on the day of the meeting. All comments will be made available to the Commission and the public.

**Accessibility:** *Individuals with disabilities are invited to request modifications or accommodations in order to access and/or participate in a Veterans Advisory Commission meeting by commission staff at [VAC@chulavistaca.gov](mailto:VAC@chulavistaca.gov) (California Relay Service is available for the hearing impaired by dialing 711) at least forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER****2. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Akana, Castro, Jimenez, Nava, Pine, Stewart, and Chair Williams

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Persons may address the Commission on any subject matter within the Commission's jurisdiction that is not listed as an item on the agenda. State law generally prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on any issue not included on the agenda, but, if appropriate, the Commission may schedule the topic for future discussion or refer the matter to staff. If you wish to speak on any item, please fill out a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Secretary prior to the meeting or submit an electronic comment per the instructions on page one of this agenda.*

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

*The following item(s) will be presentations given to the Commission. Action on these item(s) is typically limited to the Commission receiving the presentation and providing direction or feedback to staff, as appropriate. If you wish to speak on any item, please fill out a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Secretary prior to the meeting or submit an electronic comment per the instructions on page one of this agenda.*

**4.1 EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - VETERANS WORKFORCE PROGRAM**

Speaker Anthony to give a presentation about the Veterans Workforce Program from the EDD in San Diego.

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

*The Item(s) listed in this section of the agenda will be considered individually by the Commission and are expected to elicit discussion and deliberation. If you wish to speak on any item, please fill out a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Secretary prior to the meeting or submit an electronic comment per the instructions on page one of this agenda.*

**5.1 APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

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**Recommended Action:**

Commission to approve meeting minutes.

**5.2 APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCE OF COMMISSIONER AKANA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

8

**Recommended Action:**

Commission to approve excused absence from commissioner Akana.

**5.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MILITARY REINTEGRATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2024 - 2025**

**Recommended Action:**

Commission to approve the establishment of the subcommittee consisting of commissioners Nava and Stewart.

**5.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR OF 2024 - 2025**

**Recommended Action:**

Commission to approve the establishment of the subcommittee consisting of commissioners Pine and Castro.

**5.5 UPDATE ON VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD AND  
SUBCOMMITTEE**

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Commission to discuss details of the Veteran of the Year Award.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**6. STAFF COMMENTS**

**7. CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

**8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

to the special meeting on November 21, 2024.

*Materials provided to the Veterans Advisory Commission related to any open-session item on this agenda are available for public review, please contact the Fire Department at [VAC@chulavistaca.gov](mailto:VAC@chulavistaca.gov).*



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall, Bldg. #C, Conference Room B-112  
276 4th Avenue, Chula Vista

Present: Francia Castro, Elmer Jimenez, Ricardo Nava, Lynne Pine,  
Anthony Stewart, Tanya Williams

Absent: Nimpa Akana

Also Present: Karina Aguilar, Eric Martinez

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*A regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Commission of the City of Chula Vista was called to order at 6:02 p.m.*

#### 2. ROLL CALL

*Secretary Aguilar called the roll.*

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- online comment.

- citizen complained about not being able to see the commission's agenda and meeting dates.

#### 4. PRESENTATIONS

- No presentations.

**5. ACTION ITEMS****5.1 INTRODUCTON OF NEW COMMISSIONERS NAVA AND JIMENEZ**

- New commissioners Nava and Jimenez introduced themselves to the rest of the commissioners.

**5.2 APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 17,2024**

**Moved by** Lynne Pine

**Seconded by** Tanya Williams

Commission to approve meeting minutes.

**Result: Carried Unanimously**

**5.3 APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCE OF COMMISSIONER CASTRO FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 17, 2024**

**Moved by** Lynne Pine

**Seconded by** Tanya Williams

Commission to approve excused absence form of commissioner Castro.

**Result: Carried Unanimously**

**5.4 APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 21,2024**

**Moved by** Tanya Williams

**Seconded by** Francia Castro

Commission to approve meeting minutes.

**Result: Carried Unanimously**

**5.5 APPROVAL OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2024 - 2025**

**Moved by** Tanya Williams

**Seconded by** Lynne Pine

Commission to approve as amended the proposed goals and objectives.

**Result: Carried Unanimously**

**5.6 UPDATE ON MILITARY REINTEGRATION PROGRAM**

- Commissioner Stewart explained the program to the new commissioners.
- Mentioned there will be no presentation given to Council this September or October due to City Council's agenda process.

#### **5.7 APPROVAL OF SUPPORT FOR THE NAMING OF THE FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS PARK**

- Construction to be concluded 18 months from June 2024, located in Cota Vera at Otay Ranch.
- Commissioner Pine would like to invite the group behind the park to come to one of our meetings and give a presentation.

**Moved by** Tanya Williams

**Seconded by** Lynne Pine

Commission to approve the support of the park.

**Result: Carried Unanimously**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **6. STAFF COMMENTS**

- Secretary mentioned that staff will take care of updating the commission's website to include the new members.
- Jimenez is from District 1.
- Nava is from District 1.
- Secretary mentioned a possible presentation for October.

#### **7. CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

- Commissioner highlighted goals and objectives for fiscal year 2024 -2025.
- Commissioner would like to have a monthly check on where commission is at.
- He would like to motion for a new subcommittee to be in charge of social media and revisit the already established ones to see if somebody wants to join.
- Subcommittees:
  - > VOTY - Williams, Stewart, Jimenez
  - > Outreach communications - Castro, Pine

> Military reintegration - Nava, Stewart

**8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

- Commissioner Pine suggested to have the VOTY announcement before the City Council meeting on November 20th.
- Commissioner Castro asked about the city's communications team's procedure and agenda process.
- Liaison Martinez suggested to have an agenda with scheduled posts for the communications team to post on social media.
- Commissioner Stewart mentioned upcoming food distributions for the rest of the year.
- Commissioner Pine asked about including a logo for the commission's posts on social media so people can recognize our posts.
- Commissioner Castro suggested to utilize the office of the mayor to see if the commission can get on his weekly email letters.
- Commissioner Jimenez asked about quorums and meetings.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.*

*Minutes prepared by: Karina Aguilar, Secretary*

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Karina Aguilar, Secretary

**REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**

City of Chula Vista Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Name: Nimpa Akana Date of Absence: September 17, 2024Board/Commission/Committee: Veterans Advisory Commission

Chula Vista Municipal Code section 2.25.110 (C) allows board/commission/committee members, by a majority vote, to excuse a fellow board, commission, or committee member's absence from a meeting for any of the reasons listed below. **A member who is absent from three consecutive, regular meetings will be deemed to have vacated his or her membership, unless the member's absence is excused by a majority vote of the other members.** An absence is only recorded as "excused" upon receipt of a member's request and majority vote of the board/commission/committee to excuse the absence. Accordingly, if you have been absent from a regular meeting, please complete and submit this form to the chair or secretary.


Please indicate the reason for the absence:

- ☐ 1. Illness of the member, family member of the member, or personal friend of the member;
- ☐ 2. Business commitment of the member that interferes with the attendance of the member at a meeting;
- ☐ 3. Previously scheduled vacation of the member, notice of which was provided to the respective board or commission in advance of the meeting;
- ☒ 4. Attendance of the member at a funeral, religious service or ceremony, wedding, or other similarly significant event;
- ☐ 5. Unexpected, emergency situation that prohibits the member's attendance; or
- ☐ 6. Other reason for which the member has given notice to the secretary of his or her unavailability at least seven days in advance of the meeting.

OR

- ☐ The absence was not for any of the above-listed reasons. I understand that the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

I certify the reason for the absence indicated above is true and correct.

Member's Signature:  Date: September 17, 2024*If completed by secretary or staff to board/commission/committee:*Completed on member's behalf by: \_\_\_\_\_, per member's ☐ Verbal ☐ Written request  
on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date) (secretary/liaison's name)

**2024 CHULA VISTA VETERAN OF THE YEAR  
PROPOSED PROCLAMATION**

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COMMENDING DANNY SHAFFSTALL AS CITY OF CHULA'S 2024 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Danny Shaffstall is a Veteran of the United States Navy and capably served his community as a volunteer and professional for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shaffstall dedicates countless hours in support of Chula Vista Veterans. His services are evident through his work as Program Manager for the Us for Warriors Foundation, Member of the Family Life Action Group of the San Diego Veterans Coalition, and Supporting Member of the San Diego VA Regional Medical Center's "Food Empowerment Program"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shaffstall has assisted veterans recently released from active duty, those struggling with hardships and their families in spearheading the Food4Warriors program of the Us for Warriors Foundation by sustaining projects with two food distributions each month, weekly pantry services, care boxes for homeless veterans and holiday support events; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shaffstall has coordinated and led volunteer efforts in collaboration of Homeless Stand Down events, providing food and resources to thousands of homeless veterans and their families, including consistent monthly food distributions throughout the recent COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shaffstall has worked directly with posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, Veterans Affairs Clinics, and local organizations to facilitate hundreds of food distributions for thousands of military, veterans and families in need; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shaffstall has served as a Volunteer Team Leader for several key projects in support of the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista as well as therapeutic sporting and art events and community service projects supporting local veterans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shaffstall played a pivotal role in the recognition of the partnership of the San Diego VA Regional Medical Center and the Us for Warriors Foundation as the 2024 Veterans Health Administration National Community Partnership Challenge award recipients for work alongside nutritionists, social workers and key leaders of San Diego VA Clinics with deliveries and distributions of nutritional and dietary foods for Veterans with food insecurity issues hindering a healthy quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN McCANN, 41st Mayor of the City of Chula Vista, California, do hereby honor Danny Shaffstall as Chula Vista's 2024 Veteran of the Year. Chula Vista thanks him for his personal contribution in service to our country and for his continued service to improving the lives of Chula Vista Veterans.

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**POST-EVENT SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****City of Chula Vista Names Danny Shaffstall as 2024 Veteran of the Year**

**Chula Vista, CA – November 13, 2024** – The City of Chula Vista proudly presented the prestigious 2024 Veteran of the Year (VOY) Award to Danny Shaffstall, a distinguished veteran of the United States Navy, during the City Council meeting held on November 12, 2024. The event, which took place at 5:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, recognized Mr. Shaffstall for his outstanding contributions to the Chula Vista and greater San Diego veteran communities. A proclamation was presented to Mr. Shaffstall by Mayor John McCann and members of the City Council.

"The Veteran of the Year exemplifies the very best of our veteran community," said Mayor John McCann. "Danny Shaffstall's tireless efforts to support and uplift our veterans are inspiring, and we are honored to recognize his contributions today as a testament to the deep impact he has made in Chula Vista and beyond. Chula Vista is a military and veteran city with a longstanding tradition that honors the incredible service of our veterans, and we are committed to ensuring that this recognition continues to highlight their ongoing contributions through the Veteran of the Year program."

Mr. Shaffstall has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication through his extensive volunteer work and professional efforts supporting local veterans. He currently serves as the Program Manager for the Us for Warriors Foundation and is an active member of several veteran support organizations, including the Family Life Action Group of the San Diego Veterans Coalition and the San Diego VA Regional Medical Center's Food Empowerment Program. His involvement in this program contributed to a significant achievement—the recognition of the San Diego VA Regional Medical Center and the Us for Warriors Foundation as recipients of the 2024 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) National Community Partnership Challenge award. This prestigious award honored their collaborative efforts in providing nutritional and dietary support for veterans facing food insecurity.

One of Mr. Shaffstall's most notable contributions is his leadership in the Food4Warriors program of the Us for Warriors Foundation, where he spearheaded projects that provide food distributions twice monthly, weekly pantry services, care packages for homeless veterans, and holiday support initiatives. Through these efforts, he has played a crucial role in alleviating food insecurity among veterans, especially during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Mr. Shaffstall has consistently led volunteer efforts in collaboration with various organizations, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and local community service groups, providing essential resources to thousands of veterans in need. His work with the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista and other key projects has further solidified his commitment to supporting the well-being and health of his fellow veterans.

"The Veterans of Chula Vista represent a longstanding legacy of service, both in their military careers and in their ongoing contributions to our community. This year, we were humbled by the number of outstanding nominations, the most we've seen in years, all highlighting the incredible impact veterans continue to make," said Tony Stewart, Chair of the Chula Vista Veterans

Advisory Commission. "We are proud to honor Danny Shaffstall as the 2024 Veteran of the Year, and we remain committed to building upon the rich legacy established by the 23 past honorees. We look forward to reinvigorating this program to ensure that veterans who are making a difference continue to be recognized and celebrated. We hope that this year's honoree and future Veterans of the Year will have more opportunities to be showcased at events throughout the community."

The Chula Vista Veterans Advisory Commission encourages any organizations or individuals planning veteran recognition events to consider including the Veteran of the Year in their celebrations. Those interested in having the Veteran of the Year appear at events throughout the year are encouraged to contact the Veterans Advisory Commission for more information.

The Commission would also like to extend its gratitude to everyone who submitted nominations this year. Each nominee will receive a letter of appreciation, acknowledging their service and dedication to the veteran community.

The City of Chula Vista thanks Danny Shaffstall for his continued service to the community and extends its gratitude for his commitment to improving the lives of veterans in Chula Vista and beyond.

Contact:

Chula Vista Veterans Advisory Commission

Email: [VAC@ChulaVistaCA.gov](mailto:VAC@ChulaVistaCA.gov)

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