

## SUMMARY MINUTES

**Veterans Advisory Board Meeting  
May 16, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall – Everglades Room**

**A. CALL TO ORDER BY: Robert Latimer, Vice-Chair, at 5:30 P.M.**

**B. ROLL CALL**

Thaddeus Hamilton - **Absent Excused**  
Brenda Covin Senior - **Absent Excused**  
Kenton Isackson  
Robert Latimer  
Eshia McLymont  
Norman Rothfeld  
Lance Dickman  
Loretta Young  
Bruno Condron  
Justin Wells

Emilie Smith - Deputy City Manager  
Juliana Castro - Administrative Officer II  
Officer David Forteza

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**E. APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2024 MINUTES**

Vice-Chair Latimer requested a motion to approve the April 18, 2024 minutes, the motion was made by Member Isackson and was seconded by Member Dickman. The Board approved unanimously.

**F. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. City Advisory Board Liaison Information and Dates**

Member Dickman attended the Law Enforcement Review and Advisory Board meeting. He shared his experience and explained that the board operates in a similar manner to the Veterans Advisory Board meetings. He enjoyed attending,

and shared the Law Enforcement Review and Advisory Board agenda with the board members.

Member Latimer informed the Board that any member can visit and support other City Advisory Boards. Member Wells selected to act as the Small Business Advisory Board liaison throughout the year.

## **G. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Broward County Speakers - Patrice Paldino, Broward County Housing Options, Solutions, and Supports Division Director (HOSS-D); Nicholas Pascucci, Senior Housing Options, Solutions, and Supports Division Program/Project Coordinator (HOSS-D); Owen Walker, Veterans Services Section Manager**

Ms. Paldino and Mr. Walker introduced themselves to the Board. Both work for the Broward County HOSS-D (Housing Options Solutions and Support Division).

Ms. Paldino explained that Broward County HOSS-D provides services to the homeless - such as rent assistance, mobile sanitation, outreach, legal assistance and other services. They maintain a database with everyone that has received services from the HOSS-D.

Ms. Paldino informed the Board that Broward Legal Aid provides pro bono legal aid services for veterans, such as divorce, will and other services. Broward Legal Aid phone number is 954-765-8950.

Member Isakson shared the concern that working or retired Veterans may not qualify for services because they are above the Income Cap. Ms. Paldino shared that there are other entities such Mission United that solely help Veterans.

Mr. Pascucci introduced himself to the Board. He also works for the Broward County HOSS-D (Housing Options Solutions and Support Division).

Mr. Pascucci explained that not all programs have caps, and third party entities, such as Mission United have higher budgets with more flexibility, and can help more Veterans. The positive with Mission United/ United Way partnerships is that they provide multiple services to Veterans, such as mental health, discharge services, etc.

The County has programs that can help with home buying and down payments.

Mr. Pascucci explained that unlike United Way/Mission United, the County has to follow federal regulations since they receive federal funding, while United

Way/Mission United, have fewer guidelines and restraints, allowing them to serve more Veterans.

Member Rothfeld shared that a city in Colorado is providing qualified residents with basic income, and they are spending it wisely, using the money to pay for food and bills. He wanted to know if Broward County has any similar programs. Ms. Paldino shared they don't have that program; however, they are working with the Pallets Tiny Home Programs and working with consultants to conduct a visibility study to research building sites.

Mr. Pascucci informed the Board that they are working with local churches to help homeless people that are living in cars with their families. The Churches are working with Walmart and other local retailers to keep restrooms open during the evenings so families have access to basic sanitation. They are also performing outreach, educating the homeless of their rights such as when a family lives in a car, it is not breaking the law. As long as there's no child neglect, the government will not take their children.

Mr. Pascucci explained that they inspect homes prior to housing placements. The County assists with the entire process, offering case management, assistance with landlords, and other social services as needed.

Ms. Paldino informed there are many programs available such as the Permanent Affordable and Supported Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Programs. Fort Lauderdale also offers Housing Programs for HIV positive residents. People just have to research and ask for the help.

Ms. Paldino gave a brief explanation of the recently approved HB1365 law which prohibits counties and municipalities in the state from "authorizing or otherwise allowing public camping or sleeping" on public property. If the homeless sleep in public places, they can be subject to arrest.

Member McLymouth wanted to know if they work with Habitat for Humanity; Ms. Paldino said they do not work with them, but they do have a partnership with Broward Health, which provides a mobile medical unit staffed by doctors and nurses. They park at Community Court and provide health services to the homeless.

Mr. Walker handed out the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide 2024.

#### **H. BOARD MEMBER'S DISCUSSION**

Member Latimer reminded everyone of the City of Sunrise's Memorial Day Ceremony. Emilie reminded everyone of the board vacancy, and encouraged everyone to inform Veterans about the vacancy. Juliana distributed the Veterans' Park update information.

**I. NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, June 27, 2024**

**J. ADJOURNMENT AT 6:48 P.M.**

Member Rothfeld made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Condron seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Transcribed by: Juliana Castro, Board Secretary/ *Juliana Castro*

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission concerning any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. F.S.S. 286.0105.