



Veterans' Commission November Minutes

Tuesday, November 25th, 2025 at 12:00 PM via Zoom

Commission Attendees: Adler Archer, Councilman Zach Blanchard, Adobolia Buford, KeSean Johnson, Major Scott Swenson, Jeromie Williams

Staff and Guests: Director Amber Greene (OECR), Chief Jill Muth (OECR), Special Advisor Sruthi Surendran (OECR), HR Lead Andre Johnson (OECR)

Approval of October Minutes

The commission reviewed the October meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented, and the minutes were approved with all members in favor.

Staff Update and Director's Report

Staffing and Appointments: OECR is working with the Mayor's Office of Governmental Relations to obtain information about when additional commission members will be appointed and the process for Chair selection. As Spring semester approaches, the office is interested in having interns support the Veterans' Commission and encouraged members to share any programs or opportunities to include students and young professionals in this work.

Legislative Preparation: The office is preparing for the 2026 General Assembly session which will kick off in January. The Equity Division is planning a training for Boards and Commissions on legislative engagement. Members were invited to share any legislation they wish to discuss, support, or oppose.

Administrative Support: Chief Muth has requested Baltimore City email accounts for Commission members, with HR Lead Andre Johnson supporting this effort. A general email box for Veterans' Commission inquiries is also being established as a place for community members to contact the commission, provide feedback, and seek support.

Outreach Initiatives: Outreach coordinator Jumel Howard is beginning work on drafting a Veterans' Commission brochure. Members were asked to share items they would like to see included to increase the impact of outreach efforts.

November Events Recap

The commission reviewed the successful activities and events from November:

Veterans Day Parade: The parade was very successful with strong community participation. The commission discussed the rededication ceremony and resource fair that accompanied the parade. Members agreed that the Commission will be more involved in leading the planning for next year's parade, with planning set to begin in early 2026.

JHU Veterans for the Future Conference: The commission reviewed the Veterans for the Future Conference held at Johns Hopkins University, which featured General Berger and Senator Brooks as speakers. Members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate Veterans' Day in Baltimore with the Commission up and running.

DVMF Tabletop Exercise: Commission members who participated in the Department of Veterans' and Military Families' Joint Meeting and Tabletop Exercise provided feedback. This was noted as a valuable opportunity to connect with other Commissions and organizations and share solutions and resources. The DVMF expressed gratitude for the commission's participation, noting that feedback from this session will be utilized in drafting Maryland's Strategic Plan for Veterans.

Brainstorming Documents Review

The commission engaged in discussion about strategic planning documents and priorities. After reviewing various items, the group decided to focus on the mission statement, recognizing that all other planning items will flow from a clearly defined mission. Members participated in a collaborative discussion about the mission statement, exploring the commission's purpose, goals, and the veteran population they aim to serve. The commission agreed that members would complete their edits to the mission statement by no later than December 5th, 2025.

New Business and Open Discussion

Community Engagement Opportunities: Director Greene informed members that OECR staff will be volunteering at the Mayor's Goodwill Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 26th from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Convention Center, and invited interested commission members to join.

Upcoming Events: The commission received an invitation to attend the MD Center for Veterans' Education and Training Holiday Dinner on December 16th at 5:30 PM. Interested members were asked to RSVP to Chief Muth.

Next Meeting: The commission confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 30th, 2025 at 12:00 PM via Zoom.