



Commission Attendees: Veobia Akilo, Adler Archer, Councilman Zach Blanchard, Adobolia Buford, KeSean Johnson, Tywanda Morton, 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), Special Events Coordinator Marva Williams (MOACE), Former Veterans' Commission Chair Clarence Tiger Davis

The Veterans Commission held its first meeting since being reestablished, with Jill Muth introducing herself as the Chief and Director Greene providing welcoming remarks. The commission members conducted a roll call and heard updates about upcoming Veterans Day activities, including a parade organized by Marva Williams. Director Greene highlighted the commission's mission to support veterans, particularly addressing issues like housing and living conditions, and mentioned plans to engage with the General Assembly on legislative matters. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about supporting Gold Star families and establishing regular meeting schedules.

Veterans Day Planning and Events

The meeting focused on Veterans Day planning and related activities. Jill announced that the virtual meet and greet would be rescheduled due to Veterans Day and Civil Rights Week events. Marva provided details on the Veterans Day parade, including the route, participating units, and the absence of National Guard and Army Reserve units due to current circumstances. The commission discussed the need for a vehicle for General Larry Ellis to participate in the parade. They also considered recognizing a 100-year-old World War II veteran at the rededication ceremony. Adler presented plans for the Veterans for the Future event at Johns Hopkins, featuring General Berger and Senator Brooks as speakers. The commission agreed to move forward with releasing a statement on Gold Star families, setting a deadline of November 6th or 7th for responses.

Baltimore Veterans Commission First Meeting

The Veterans Commission held their first meeting to discuss veteran services and issues in Baltimore. They reviewed notes from a recent veterans listening session, which highlighted concerns about living conditions for seniors, VA appointment challenges, and lack of benefits knowledge. The commission discussed potential solutions, including creating veteran-friendly signs, addressing PTSD triggers like fire drills and noise, and exploring medical-legal partnerships. They agreed to meet monthly on the last Tuesday at 12pm, alternating between

in-person and Zoom meetings. The commission also decided to participate in an upcoming police department Military Appreciation ceremony on November 13th.