



Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 12:00 PM via Zoom

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

Staff and Guests: Chief Jill Muth (OECR), Shawn Davis (Veteran and Community Member), Ash Wallis (Minority Veterans), Nigel Crocombe (South Harbor Renaissance)

Major Scott Swenson called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Staff Update and Director's Report

Staff provided updates from the Office of Equity and Civil Rights and reviewed the March 2026 Director's Report. The Commission was informed that work is ongoing with the City administration to complete pending appointments and select a Chair. Members were also reminded of the annual financial disclosure requirement, with filings due by April 30, 2026.

The report also included legislative and outreach updates. Staff noted that the state legislative session was approaching adjournment and that a legislative summary would be provided after the close of session, while opportunities for municipal advocacy would continue through the City Council process. Members were informed that the Commission's official brochure had been completed and would be available for distribution once printed. Staff also shared that OECR participated in the State Veterans' Resource Fair at Ft. Meade on March 17.

Additional event planning updates were discussed, including ongoing preparations for the 2026 Veterans' Day Parade and the revised parade route utilizing Lexington Street. Staff also shared that planning was underway for a Memorial Day program, including a flag planting ceremony in partnership with South Harbor Renaissance.

Approval of February Minutes

The Commission reviewed the February 24, 2026 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

Memorial Day Flag Ceremony Presentation

Nigel Crocombe presented on the Memorial Day Flag Ceremony and shared information regarding the proposed program, planning considerations, and coordination needs. Commissioners discussed how the event could serve as an important public observance honoring veterans and military families. Chief Muth shared that she would share the draft program with Commissioners once finalized, and set a meeting to kick off the planning process.

Presentation on Minority Veterans

Ash Wallis delivered a presentation focused on the Minority Veterans Listening Tour. The tour seeks to highlight the experiences and needs of minority veterans and tell their stories. The group will be traveling to Baltimore in June to highlight the history of Black veterans. KeSean Johnson volunteered to be the point person for this, and Chief Muth stated that she would connect him to Ash via email.

Cross County Liaison Discussion

The Commission discussed the establishment of a Cross County Liaison role. The purpose of the position will be to strengthen communication and coordination across jurisdictions through information sharing, collaboration with neighboring veterans' bodies, and regional veteran-serving initiatives. KeSean Johnson and Major Swenson both expressed interest in serving as the liaison, and Chief Muth noted she would connect them to the Harford and Baltimore County Veterans' Commission contacts.

Bylaws Discussion

The Commission reviewed bylaws and decided that they were finalized and ready to go to the Law Department for review. Chief Muth explained the process and stated she would send the draft bylaws.

New Business

During new business, the Commission was introduced to Dr. Sarasi Desikan, a physician working with the VA and a member of the Women's Commission. She is excited to explore opportunities for collaboration between the Women's and Veterans' Commission, and can assist with any health related initiatives.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:48pm.