



**Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 12:00 PM via Zoom**

**Commission Attendees:** Adobolia Buford, KeSean Johnson, Adler Archer, Jeromie Williams, Tabitha Drum

**Staff and Guests:** Chief Jill Muth (OECR)

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcomed.

### **Quick recap**

The Baltimore City Veterans Commission held its June meeting. Commissioners introduced themselves, including new members Tabitha Drum and guest Chester France who presented his custom manufacturing business that trains formerly incarcerated individuals and unemployed veterans in garment making. The commission approved May meeting minutes and elected officers, with Jeromie volunteering as secretary and Kesean volunteering as vice chair. Kesean discussed plans for a financial readiness webinar for veterans in August with Hamilton Gilbert from Northwestern Mutual, and Jill presented ideas for a September event combining suicide prevention awareness with Gold Star Families recognition. The meeting also covered upcoming events including Veterans Day parade planning and a potential post-parade happy hour, with discussions about involving local businesses and adjusting parade routes for better press coverage and community access.

## **Next steps**

### **Adler**

- Attempt to connect the commission with bank contacts (e.g., Chase, Truist) for potential partnership on the financial readiness event.

### **Dr.**

- Follow up with Chester France after the call to discuss support from VetWorks, including workforce development and industry partner connections.

### **Jeromie**

- Assume the role of secretary starting from the next meeting.

## **Jill**

- Send out the recap email with information about the new commissioner induction on July 22nd, the call for parade units, and the proposed program for the September event.
- Send out the social media messages regarding fireworks and veterans with PTSD, and notify the commission once posted.
- Ensure Chester France's contact information is included in the wrap-up email.
- Send out calendar invite for the financial readiness for veterans webinar in August.
- Create and share a notes document outlining what's in place and what needs to be decided for the Veterans Day parade and resource fair.
- Follow up with Brad Burns regarding a potential post-parade gathering or happy hour, and loop in KeSean and Tabitha.

## **John**

- Send the information about the National Market Point Marine Association convention to the Veterans Commission email ([veteranscommission@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:veteranscommission@baltimorecity.gov)).

## **KeSean**

- Send a brief paragraph to the commission about his interest in the vice chair position.
- Talk to Dr. Buford this week to finalize plans for the cadence call (Jody) competition.
- Ensure the registration link for the financial readiness class is shared with all VSOs once available.

## **Staff Updates**

Jill provided staff updates including plans for new commissioner headshots near Federal Hill Monument, upcoming financial readiness webinars, and efforts to involve the commission in discussions about Confederate statues returning to Baltimore. The commission also discussed plans to share social media messages about fireworks safety during the 4th of July holiday to help veterans with PTSD.

## **Veteran Apprenticeship Program Presentation**

The meeting began with the approval of May's minutes, followed by a presentation from Chester France of LLBC. Chester described his company's mission to help unemployed veterans and people coming home from prison through a Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program offering one year of training and full-time pay. Dr. Buford committed to providing support through workforce development and strategic industry partnerships, while KeSean suggested focusing on communication strategies to attract funders and donors.

### **Officer Position Filling Meeting**

The meeting focused on filling officer positions for the organization. Kesean Johnson volunteered for vice chair and Jeromie agreed to serve as secretary. The group decided that candidates would submit brief paragraphs about their qualifications, and a follow-up vote would be conducted at the next meeting within a 30-day timeframe. Jill confirmed that the secretary position would be supported by AI note-taking technology to reduce manual workload. The conversation ended with a brief mention of upcoming events, including financial readiness for veterans.

### **Veterans Events Planning Meeting**

The meeting focused on planning upcoming veterans events, with KeSean discussing a new financial readiness program for veterans being developed with Hamilton Gilbert from Northwest Mutual, scheduled for August. Jill presented plans for a September event combining suicide prevention awareness with Gold Star Families Day, proposing a support circle for families who have lost veterans to suicide. The group also discussed Veterans Day parade planning, including accepting parade units and considering a post-parade resource fair or happy hour event. John Harris shared information about an upcoming 61st convention for the National Marine Corps Association, Chapter 17, celebrating Black Marines at the BWI Hilton.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 12:00 PM.