

**Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Advisory Commission**  
3839 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85012

**November 16, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**Advisory Commissioners Present**

Joan McDermott, Chairperson  
Gene Crego, Vice Chairperson  
Chris Gibbs, Commissioner  
Kathryn Gallowitz, Commissioner  
Edward Logan, Commissioner  
Kirk Loving, Commissioner  
Michael Noble, Commissioner

**AZ Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS)**

Colonel Wanda Wright, Director  
Jennifer Harris, Legislative Liaison  
Lupita Santellano, Executive Assistant

**Absent**

Rebecca Villalpando, Commissioner

**Call to Order** – The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Advisory Commission meeting was held virtually via Google Meets, link: <https://meet.google.com/bdq-ytuy-mgz>; phone number (US) +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 852 766 774 6684#. Chairwoman McDermott called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chairwoman McDermott reviewed the meeting minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting on October 14, 2021, and noticed edits that need to be made. The edits must be made before the Commission can approve the minutes. The Commission will approve the final draft at the next Advisory Commission meeting scheduled on January 13, 2021.

**Old Business**

**Annual Letter to the Governor** – The annual letter to the Governor has been sent to the Commissioners via email with final revisions. Chairwoman McDermott called for a motion to approve the content of the letter to the Governor. Commissioner Crego motioned to approve the content of the letter to the Governor. Commissioner Gallowitz second the motion. Chairwoman McDermott opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Gallowitz would like to make a change to the last sentence in the first paragraph of the letter. She states she made a recommendation she feels strongly about, which did not make it to the final revision. Other recommendations she made were also not incorporated in the letter; as she re-read the letter, she understands why those recommendations did not make it to the final draft. However, she would like the following sentence added to the letter “honors our veterans’ service, and will make Arizona more attractive as a place to live and work, ultimately bringing a financial benefit to our state and strengthening the civilian workforce.” Commissioner Logan does not agree the sentence should be changed until the state figures out the housing shortage. Commissioner Gallowitz states adding the sentence to the letter would plant a seed

for the second letter to the Governor. Commissioner Crego agreed with the edits Commissioner Gallowitz recommended; however, due to the timeline he would rather the recommended content be added to the second letter to the Governor in January 2022. There being no other objections from the Commission, the motion carried.

Chairwoman McDermott called for a motion for approval to send the final draft of the letter to the Governor. Commissioner Gibbs motioned to send the [letter to the Governor](#), Commissioner Crego second the motion. There being no objections from the Commission, the motion carried.

**Second Letter to the Governor** – Chairwoman McDermott would like the second letter to the Governor to be drafted and finalized for approval by the next Advisory Commission meeting on January 13, 2022. Director Wright asked the Chairwoman what the timeline will be for the second, she noted the legislative session begins on January 10, 2022. Chairwoman McDermott states she would like the letter approved by the next Advisory Commission meeting on January 13, 2022. Chairwoman McDermott states she will work closely with Commissioner Gallowitz when drafting the second letter.

The Chairwoman asked the Commission for their input on the content of the second letter. Commissioner Logan mentioned the Phoenix Business Journal has published the top 24 Veteran owned businesses in Arizona. He suggested the Commission reach out to the business owners to determine what issues they are facing. Commissioner Gallowitz agreed to the idea. Commissioner Logan will share the list with the Advisory Commission via email. The Advisory Commission will divide the list amongst themselves and will develop questions to ask the Veteran owned businesses, which must be emailed to Chairwoman McDermott as soon as possible; a suspense date was not provided.

**Advisory Commission Meeting in January 2022** - Commissioner McDermott states the Commission voted on October 14, 2021, for a virtual Advisory Commission meeting in January of 2022, and an in-person Advisory Commission meeting in April of 2022. However, a couple commissioners have voiced their opinion and would rather meet in person in January of 2022. Director Wright states she will give the Commission a proper orientation and go over meeting rules at the upcoming Advisory Commission meeting. Chairwoman McDermott asked for a motion for a hybrid Advisory Commission meeting on January 13, 2022. Commissioner Crego motioned for a hybrid meeting on January 13, 2022. Commissioner Gallowitz second the motion. There being no objection, the motion carried.

### **Open Discussion for the Good of the Order**

Director Wright asked the Commissioners to attend the virtual Conflict-of-Interest training provided by the Governor's Office of Youth Faith and Family (GOYFF), on December 3, 2021, at 11:00 am. Executive Assistant, Lupita Santellano, will send the meeting information via email to all Commissioners.

Commissioner Crego renewed his commission for three years. Commissioner Logan will send his photograph to Lupita to update the Advisory Commissioner biography page.

Chairwoman McDermott called for a motion to adjourn the Arizona Veterans' Services Advisory Commission Meeting. Commissioner Crego motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Gibbs second the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm.