



COMMISSION FOR VETERANS
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
6420 ALLENTOWN ROAD
CAMP SPRINGS, MD 20748



COMMISSION FOR VETERANS PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Minutes of February 1, 2010

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2010. The meeting was conducted at the Harriet Hunter Building, Department of Family Services, 6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Maryland 20748. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted to start the meeting.

Roll call of Commission Members: Chairman Turner, Vice Chair Devlin; Commissioners Begenwald, Lambird, Nordhorn, Parker, Powell; West, White and Secretary Chatary were present. Commissioners Martel, and Murphy, were excused; a quorum was present. Commissioners Alexander and Phillips arrived shortly after roll call.

Chair Turner welcomed all the guests who came out this evening and asked everyone to sign in. All guests present introduced themselves.

Chair Turner stated that the Minutes for January 4, 2010 were distributed, Vice Chair Devlin made the motion that the Minutes be accepted, second by Commissioner White, motion passed.

Chair Turner introduced Ms. Ginger Miller, President & CEO of John 14:2, Inc. "Putting Veterans First—Keeping Veterans First" who made her presentation at this time.

Note: Contact info: (301) 283-5268; FAX (301) 576-5923; Email: gmillers@john142vets.org

Chair Turner asked that the Commission write a letter to Dr. Hite, Superintendent of Prince George's County Schools, stating we support our veterans organization trying to procure or acquire one of the schools in the County that are closed. Vice Chair Devlin made a motion to send a letter to Dr. Hite, asking if there is a school/facility available for John 14:2, for veterans, second by Commissioner West. Chair Turner called for a Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Devlin, Aye; Commissioner Alexander, Aye; Commissioner Begenwald, Aye; Commissioner Lambird, Aye; Commissioner Nordhorn, Aye; Commissioner Parker, Aye; Commissioner Phillips, Aye; Commissioner Powell, Abstain; Commissioner West, Aye; Commissioner White, Aye – Commissioners Martel and Murphy were not present. For the Record Chair Turner votes Aye.

Chair Turner talked about the Summerfield Project Housing Project, which is a vacant government housing project. He attended a presentation on this project at Andrews Air Force Base and also met with the Developer of this Project. Chair Turner went into great detail regarding this Project. The Government is paying \$20 Million Dollars for a facility that is not being used and there is five more

years to go on this lease. This would be an ideal project to put homeless veterans that are in the County.

Chair Turner called for Committee Reports to be presented at this time:

Veteran's Employment Services and Development Committee: Commissioner/Chair Murphy was excused, no report.

Veteran's Benefits Services Committee: Commissioner/Chair West, gave his report. He and Commissioner Martel are still working on the Survey in order to get this published on the web site. The Maryland General Assembly will start its 2010 Session and he will be attending hearings to testify on all bills dealing with Veteran's Benefits.

Legislative Committee: Commissioner/Chair Parker gave his report. A copy of his report was distributed to those present and he discussed the report. (A copy attached to original minutes). He asked Commissioner White to address the Commission. Commissioner White stated he is the State Legislative Chairman for the American Legion and will be in Annapolis tomorrow along with Vice Chair Devlin before the Senate Budget and Finance Committee. We will testify on two bills; SB 1, tax exemption for military retirees and SB 4 Gaming, Slot Machines for non profit organizations. Commissioner Nordhorn made a motion that the Commission go on record supporting both these bills, second by Vice Chair Devlin, motion passed. Chair Turner stated he has talked to Senator Peters and the Senator will be in favor of the bill if the Commission is in favor and will lend his support. Vice Chair Devlin made a motion that the Chair send a letter to Senator Peters and all the Senators in Prince George's County asking him to be a sponsor on the gaming bill for veterans organizations, second by Commissioner West, motion passed. Chair Turner asked Commissioners Parker and White to put the letter together.

Public Affairs Committee: Commissioner/Chair Alexander gave her report.

Chair Turner introduced Mr. Abdul-Raheem Abdullah and he addressed the Commission regarding a clothes drive he wants to have for the homeless veterans and residents of the County.

Commissioner White gave the Commission information regarding Veterans Buying Homes in Prince George's County.

Chair Turner called for a break at 7:35 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

Unfinished Business: Vice Chair Devlin made a motion that the Annual Report for the Prince George's County Commission for Veterans be adopted, second by Commissioner West. Vice Chair Devlin made a motion that we divert from the regular order of business and continue with other matters until Jermoni makes copies for distribution.

Chair Turner asked Secretary Chatary to talk about the lapel pins for the Commission. After discussion with Chair Turner we decided to go with the 1 inch size which is similar to the sample we had before. The more we order the less the cost and if we order 500 they will only cost 60 cents each. Vice Chair Devlin made the motion that the payment be made by Department of Family Services, second by Commissioner Parker, motion passed by majority vote. Jermoni will take care of the ordering.

New Business: Commissioner Nordhorn addressed the Commission regarding giving awards to veterans in the County. Vice Chair Devlin made a motion that an Awards Committee be established for the Commission and Commissioner Nordhorn be the Chairman, second by Commissioner Begenwald, motion passed. Commissioners Phillips and Begenwald were appointed to the Committee.

Commissioner Nordhorn talked about the Governor's Volunteer Service Award and the nominations have

to be submitted by the end of February and only 3 nominations can be submitted. He will take action. Chair Turner stated we will go back to Unfinished Business and discuss the Commission's Annual Report. Copies were distributed and if there are no further questions, we will take the vote, motion passed. Secretary Chatary will prepare the cover letter which will be addressed to the County Executive, the County Council Chair and each member of the County Council for my signature. The package will be delivered to the addressees.

Good of the Order: None.

Chair Turner asked that if any of the Commissioners have anything they would like to have put on the Agenda for next month to contact him or Secretary Chatary. We would like to have input from you.

Motion by Vice Chair Devlin to adjourn the Commission meeting, second by Commissioner West, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be on Monday, March 1, 2010 at the same location at Family Services, Camp Springs, Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond A. Chatary

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Secretary