

## ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS



**MEETING AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, 6 September 2016**  
**441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW/One Judiciary Square**  
**Room 1114**  
**Washington DC 20001**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

- I. Call to Order** by Dalzell at 1830
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Advisory Board Members Roll Call**
  - A) 8 members present initially – no quorum
- IV. Agenda**
- V. Approval of Minutes**
  - A) August minutes sent by email to board members.
- VI. Special Guests**
  - A) Coalition to Restore DC Pension Benefit Exclusion
    1. Laura Richards and Sylvester Bush represented the organization.
    2. Mr. Bush presented on the group's effort. In 2014 DC would allow retired mil/vets to exclude \$3K from pension when they did taxes. This was eliminated in 2014. This change was inserted in the tax commission report in a consolidated bill, and was not presented to council as change.
    3. The group claims to have many other community groups in support – teachers, pastors, etc. 36 states exclude all or some veterans' pensions from taxable income; MD has \$27K exclusion. The increased deduction adopted as part of the consolidated bill doesn't help if you itemize.
    4. After extended discussion, Mr. Wingo said he would have the Government Affairs committee look at it -- let them digest it, collect further info, and make a recommendation to the mayor. This could include reaching out to our wards and see what public opinion is on the subject.
    5. Part of the problem is that the Mayor signed the budget bill two weeks ago, and the district has 30 legislative days before it becomes law. Several board members noted that this may mean it's a dead issue for now, and should be addressed in a longer-term fashion to bring it up in the next budget cycle.

**VII. Director's Report** (Time reserved for Charon Hines, Director of the Mayor's Office of Community, or representative of OVA.)

- A) Ms. Hines said the district had interviewed three candidates for next director, and it was a tough decision. The candidate selected was Eli Ross, and she reviewed his biography.
- B) Director Ross will begin work 19 September. Swearing in will take place on that day as part of the inprocessing.
- C) The OVA will not be moving back to this building;
- D) Ms Hines introduced Tyneisha Owens, who has been the sole worker in the OVA pending Director Ross' arrival.
  - 1. Ms. Owens has been working on care packages for vets in transitional housing programs in DC (four locations). The packages will include detergent, socks, and Metro farecards to get to VA appointments.
  - 2. She is looking at the end of October to complete building the inventory, then disperse the packets. She hopes to get the mayor to go to a location to see the process.
  - 3. Additionally, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation aims to develop awareness of veterans' issues and reached out to many cities, including DC, to partner by passing a resolution. The OVA is asking mayor to support a resolution for two-day event at capitol visitors center. There is a chance for OVA to also table at the follow-on event at the Hilton.
    - a. Mr. Dier noted that the homelessness committee is thinking of sponsoring a "dining in for homelessness" for veteran and active military communities, with proceeds go to area charities working with homeless vets, probably in 2017.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

- A) None presented.

**IX. Old Business** (Chairman)

**X. New Business** (Chairman)

- A) Mr. Wingo announced that Ms. Pridemore would be deploying shortly with her National Guard unit and will suspend her activities with the advisory board until her return.

**XI. Public Comment** (Maximum 2 minute per person)

**XII. Upcoming** (Events/Meetings/Holidays)

**XIII. Adjournment at 1945.**