



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Minutes of the Veterans Committee**

1:30 PM

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Miller, Morita, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Lowry and Stamps (7)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairwoman Miller asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code.

1. Frank Gutierrez - Veteran Assistance Commission of Cook County
2. Arthur J. Ellingsen - American Legion Post 216/VFW pOST 9284
3. John "Dutch" DeGroot - Veteran of Foreign Wars
4. Christopher C. Garza - Veteran of Foreign Wars
5. Brett Nila - VFW of Illinois
6. Bill Brown
7. Wayne Kern
8. George Blakemore - Citizen
9. Rochelle Crump- Veterans
10. George Mulvaney - Veterans Committee
11. Michael Tuman - American Legion Post 104
12. Karen Hernandez - Chicago Veterans
13. Eric Morales - VFW
14. Patrick L. Flannigan - American Legion Post 36

23-5294

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 05/24/2023

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Morita, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 23-5294. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Miller, Morita, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Lowry and Stamps (7)

23-4808

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, MAGGIE TREVOR and TARA S. STAMPS, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF COOK COUNTY AND THE COOK COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, due to legislative changes to the Illinois Veteran's Affairs Act, Cook County was required to amend the Veterans Assistance Commission ordinance to comply with the state legislative changes and to establish the legal relationship between the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County (VACCC) and the County Board; and

WHEREAS, as stated the purpose of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County is to provide immediate emergency financial assistance to Cook County veterans and veterans' families. The general powers of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County shall be in accordance with 330 ILCS 45 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, further the VACCC of Cook County shall comply with all applicable federal, state and county laws, rules, regulations, and orders as well as Cook County policies; and

WHEREAS, the amendment designated the VACCC as a separate independent office although its employees will receive all benefits available to County employees; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs (CCVA), which was established in 2012 empowers all Cook County veterans who have served in a branch of the military through workshops, newsletters and access to a network of outreach services that allows veterans to leverage their knowledge and achieve a better quality of life for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, in order to better assist Cook County veterans in navigating the various benefits available to them from these offices, it would be beneficial to have an explanation of the organizational structure including member organizations of the VACCC as well as the organizational structure of the CVAA and the roles they serve and benefits provided;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request a meeting of the Veterans Committee be convened to discuss the organizational structures and available benefits from the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County (VACCC) and the Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs (CCVA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of the VACCC and the Director of the CCVA appear before the Veterans Committee and be prepared to give an overview to the committee and answer questions related to the new organizational structure and benefits provided to Cook County veterans from both offices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Veterans Committee shall be convened periodically as may be required to receive future updates from the VACCC and CCVA.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Morita, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for deferral 23-4808. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Miller, Morita, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Lowry and Stamps (7)

23-4826

Presented by: ELIZABETH D. SOTO, Superintendent, Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County

REPORT

Department: Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County

Report Title: VACCC FY23 Quarterly Reports to Date

Report Period: December 1, 2022, thru August 31, 2023

Summary: VACCC Financial Operating and Direct Disbursements

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Morita, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for receiving and filing 23-4826. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Miller, Morita, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Lowry and Stamps (7)

ADJOURNMENT

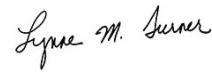
A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Morita, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Miller, Morita, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Lowry and Stamps (7)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairwoman



Secretary

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>.