

Timothy Casey (Secretary to the Board)

From: ROBERT ARCIOLA <robertarciola@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 1:07 PM
To: Lynne Turner (Secretary to the Board)
Cc: Timothy Casey (Secretary to the Board)
Subject: RE: FILE ID# 23-4808 Statement and three related attachments

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Testimony Request Cook County Commission Board on Agenda Item 23-4808

Good Morning Madam President and Commissioners,

Per request as my microphone malfunctioned today, I'm writing to provide testimony to share on today's (Thursday, 21 September 10:00) Cook County Commission meeting.

Specifically, I would like to urge and express supporting agenda item 23-4808. The item supports a critical follow up meeting for the Cook County Veterans Committee to understand more about the structure, organization, and missions of the Veterans Assistance Commission along with changes in the state law.

I am pleased to say the members (Delegates and Alternates) of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County (VACCC) are highly in favor of passage of item 23-4808. The VACCC is composed of nearly 40 chartered Veterans Service Organization appointed members located throughout Cook County. Each were selected by their organization to assist the VACCC. These members are putting in numerous hours in various meetings and outreach to improve the VACCC, help lead, and make quality decisions that ensure our veterans and their families are being reached to serve them with excellence. The collective work assists to provide proper functioning and support necessary to hold accountable our staff to communicate and accomplish our mission, provide critical emergency support, services, and benefits available to all eligible veterans, and their families within Cook County. To do this we call on to engage and rely on key leaders and citizens at the grassroots levels and higher to ensure our organization, needs, and its services are made known.

It is vital that all leaders understand the VACCC needs to be structured and funded properly to achieve its mission. The VACCC is required to comply with the Military Veterans Assistance Act (MVAA) passed by our state legislature and signed by Governor Pritzker. To quote the purpose of the MVAA Section 2 verbatim,

"This Act is, in part, to provide, in accordance with this Section, just and necessary assistance and accordance with this Section, just and necessary assistance and services to military veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and whose last discharge from the service was honorable or general under honorable conditions, to their the United States and whose last discharge from the service was honorable or general under honorable conditions, to their families, and to their families of deceased veterans with service who need assistance and services."

The VAC looks forward to ensuring that Commissioners are fully aware of the vital information they need to take appropriate actions. We firmly believe the information exchanged in such a follow up meeting will help ensure the Veterans Assistance Commission be properly funded so that Cook County can resolve the immediate staffing requirements of the VACCC.

It's the expectation of our VAC members that Commissioners will make the correct changes to once again help the VACCC to fully regain its prominence and services it once had throughout Cook County.

We thank you for supporting veterans in advance and wish to inform everyone the VACCC members remain steadfast in our ongoing commitment to serve veterans and their families in emergency needs and benefits they are entitled to.

Lastly, please know that without the critical dialogue through this follow up meeting, it would be very difficult for Commissioners to understand everything the VAC is mandated by state law to do, and the critical needs to further assisting veterans and their family throughout our community.

In Service Respectfully Always,
Robert Arciola
President
Veterans Assistance Commission
Cook County, IL

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From: [Lynne Turner \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:12 AM
To: [Robert Arciola](#)
Cc: [Timothy Casey \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)
Subject: Re: FILE ID# 23-4808 Statement and three related attachments

Good Morning,
We saw you connected, but there was no audio from your connection. Please send your statement and we will have it circulated to the Board.
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From: ROBERT ARCIOLA <robertarciola@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 10:07:20 AM
To: Lynne Turner (Secretary to the Board) <Lynne.Turner@cookcountyil.gov>
Subject: RE: FILE ID# 23-4808 Statement and three related attachments

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Hello Lynn,

I signed up to provide a statement and a RSVP was sent to confirm my participation in today's committee meeting. I never received a link to enter it though. Please send one, if possible.

Thank you.