

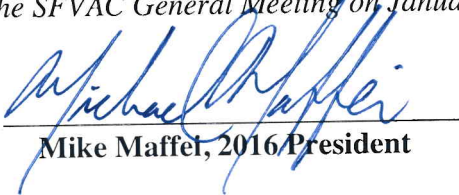
2016 ANNUAL REPORT

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission

January 10, 2017

The 2016 Annual Report of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission was approved and ratified at the SFVAC General Meeting on January 10, 2017.

original signed by: _____



Mike Maffei, 2016 President

The 2016 Annual Report of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission was prepared and submitted at the SFVAC General Meeting on January 10, 2017.

original signed by: _____



Dwane Kennedy, 2016 Vice-President

- Sec. 1: Executive Summary**
- Sec. 2: Commission Leadership and Membership**
- Sec. 3: Actions and Achievements in 2016**
- Sec. 4: Resolutions, Endorsements and Support**
- Sec. 5: Meetings and Attendance**

Sec. 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2016 San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission has many successes to report this year and all the SFVAC Commissioners have worked tirelessly to serve and support the San Francisco Veterans Community. In addition to providing information and advice to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, members of the SFVAC have also help support job-fairs, Veterans Day Parade, Memorial Day Ceremony, advocacy for Filipino-American Veterans, Veterans benefit program, oversight on Veterans health, housing and homelessness issues and much more.

The SFVAC reported no un-excused member absences and there were no meetings cancelled due to lack of attendance. The SFVAC remains diverse and represents a broad range of the San Francisco community. Interest in serving on the SFVAC continues to be strong and in 2016 there were more applicants seeking appointment than available seats on the Commission.

Sec. 2: COMMISSION LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

(a) Commission Diversity

In its current configuration, the Commission meets or exceeds all diversity requirements as per City Code and SFVAC By-Laws. The membership of the SFVAC includes a strong mix of ages, eras of service, racial/ethnic diversity and represents many of San Francisco's diverse communities of interest.

(b) 2016 Officer Elections

On January 12, 2016 the following new officers were elected and installed for the 2016 administrative year:

- Commissioner Mike Maffei, President
- Commissioner Dwane Kennedy, Vice President
- Commissioner Brendan Rogers, Secretary
- Commissioner Dottie Guy was elected Secretary on June 14, 2016

(c) 2016 Commissioner Appointments

In 2016, three new Commissioners were appointed to the SFVAC by the Board of Supervisors:

- Commissioner Scott Joiner
- Commissioner Bill Barnickel
- Commissioner Kim Flaherty

(d) 2016 Commissioner Resignations

In 2016, four Commissioners resigned and/or did not seek re-appointment:

- Commissioner Sam Pandey
- Commissioner John Gallagher
- Commissioner Brendan Rogers
- Commissioner Latonia Dixon

By the end of 2016, the Commission strength stood at 13 members with two Mayoral appointment vacancies and two Board of Supervisors appointment vacancies. The attached attendance record provides a full view of Commissioners participation during the calendar year.

Sec. 3: ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

(a) Goals Setting for 2016

During the February 2016 General Meeting of the SFVAC, Commissioners introduced the veteran related issues, goals and objectives that we would like to focus on during the upcoming administrative year. The list compiled for 2016 includes the following items:

- Commission attendance and meeting efficiency
- Relationship building between SFVAC, elected officials and veterans.
- Increased understanding of the veterans housing and homelessness
- Veterans Day Parade and Memorial Day Ceremony
- Veterans mental and physical health services.
- Issues affecting women veterans.
- Improvements to SFVAC social network
- Use of the Veterans Memorial Building

(b) Improved Commission Attendance

There were no reported un-excused absences during the 2016 administrative year. In 2016, meeting attendance by active members was high and there were no meetings cancelled due to lack of quorum. This is a tremendous improvement over previous years when several meetings were cancelled due to lack quorum.

(c) Improved Relationships Between Elected Officials and SFVAC

In 2016, SFVAC Commissioners began a campaign to improve relationships and open lines of communications with the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors. These improvements have led to cooperative efforts in the fight against bonus repayments for members of the California National Guard plus the opening of new transitional housing for SF veterans.

(d) Increased Understanding of Veterans Housing and Homelessness

Solving the problem of veteran homelessness in San Francisco has been a long standing goal of the SFVAC for many years. In 2016, the SFVAC made a tactical shift in the accomplishment of this goal by seeking to improve its understanding of the homelessness problem. To this end, most of the meetings in 2016 included discussions on the topic with input and advice from those directly involved providing housing and homeless services. In a straw poll taken in 2016, a large majority of SFVAC Commissioners believe more needs to be done to solve the problem. It is expected that the housing issue will continue to be a high priority topic in 2017.

(e) Increased Participation at the Veterans Day Parade

In 2015 the SFVAC supported a resolution to move the annual Veterans Day Parade from Market Street to Fisherman's Wharf. In 2016, after 30 years of declining community participation, the Veterans Day Parade reported a parade attendance of more than 3,000 people. Since the parade is largely organized and attended by former and current members of the SFVAC, the success of this event is considered an ancillary accomplishment of the SFVAC.

(f) San Francisco Veterans Benefits Program

SFVAC Members in collaboration with Department of Justice, Veterans Service Office, Institute on Aging, Department of Insurance, and the City of San Francisco launched a program to prevent poaching scams and financial attacks on elderly veterans. This program started in the bay area as is expected to expand nationwide in 2017.

(g) San Francisco Job Fair

SFVAC Members supported a Veterans Job fair that was attended by more than 15 organizations, 40 job applications were taken and flu shots were provided to more than 48 veterans.

(e) Cooperative Efforts with the County Veterans Service Office

In 2016, the SFVAC worked together with the staff at the County Veterans Service Office. This collaboration resulted in privacy improvements inside the administrative offices of the CVSO and assisted a 94 year old WWII veteran obtain benefits after 5 years of effort.

Sec. 4: RESOLUTIONS, ENDORSEMENTS AND SUPPORT

In 2016, the SFVAC reviewed and approved the following resolutions, endorsements and support letters:

- Letter supporting the Veterans War Memorial Building monument and flagpole
- Resolution requesting that SFVAC to be notified of any large scale homeless camp relocations
- Letter supporting efforts to restore denied benefits to veterans
- Resolution in support of Gold Star Families
- Resolution to recognize Michael Blecker for longstanding commitment to veterans
- Letter supporting healthcare eligibility for veterans with bad paper discharges
- Resolution in support of the Veterans Day Parade
- Draft Resolution to recognize Wally Levin's support of SF Veterans

Sec. 5: General Meetings – Attendance and Guests

(a) Meeting Guests and Public Commentary

The monthly General Meetings of the SFVAC, held at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall, Room 416 on the second Tuesday of every month, were once again attended by a wide variety of guests at speakers. Below is a list of speakers that presented information on topics important to the San Francisco veterans community:

- Wally Levin- Veterans Building, Veterans Day Parade, Memorial Day Ceremony
- Luis Marques-U.S. Department of Labor
- Tamari Hedani-Elder Abuse Prevention Project
- Megan Owens Faught, City of San Francisco, HAS
- Laura Thomas, Drug Policy Alliance
- Supervisor Scott Wiener, SF Board of Supervisors
- Mellissa Washington, Women Veterans Alliance
- Michael Pappas, San Francisco Interfaith Council

(b) Commissioners' Attendance at General Meetings

The official Attendance Record for the SFVAC monthly meeting is located on the following page.

ATTENDANCE RECORD - 2016

NAME	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barnickel (Installed March 8, 2016)			P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P
Dacumos	P	P	EA	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	EA
Dixon	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	EA	P	EA	P	---
Flaherty (Installed May 10, 2016)					P	EA	X	P	P	P	P	P
Gallagher	P	-----										
Guy	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P
Jenkins	EA	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	EA	EA
Joiner (Installed February 9, 2016)		P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	EA	P	P
Kennedy	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P
Maffei	P	P	P	P	P	EA	X	P	P	P	P	P
Marshall*	P	P	P	EA	EA	P	X	EA	EA	P	EA	P
Miller	P	EA	P	P	P	P	X	EA	P	P	P	P
Noetzel	P	P	P	P	EA	EA	X	EA	P	EA	EA	P
Pandey	P	P	-----									
Rogers	P	P	P	P	P	-----						
Weeby*	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	EA	P	P	P
Wong*	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P

INDEX TO SYMBOLS:

X No Meeting

P Present

EA Excused Absence

--- Resigned Appointment

* Mayoral Appointments

UA Unexcused Absence