

Notes from the February 3, 2025 Commission for Veterans of Prince George's County Meeting.

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Commissioner & Community Updates

- **Commissioner LaShonda Henderson (Vice Chair)**
 - Represented the Commission at the **Camp Springs Civic Association** in January
 - Engaged with **Vet Force** and **Elisa Brown** (Anne Arundel County Minority/Small Business Coordinator) to address business award challenges and explore coaching opportunities
 - Participated in:
 - **New Year Kickoff** hosted by Col. Yolanda Gore, Ft. Meade's first female Garrison commander (and first African American Commander)
 - **Laurel's Veteran's Day Program**
 - **District Heights Veterans Program**
 - Advocating for **women-owned veteran businesses** to be recognized
 - Spoke at MD General Assembly for bill on Veteran High School diploma and received feedback that all legislative request must go through OVA process
 - Coordinated a meeting with OVA to align on outreach and engagement strategies
- **Commissioner James Childs (Amvets, Army Veteran)**
 - Expressed challenges with **membership growth**
 - Mentioned **Dr. Joanne Fischer's** upcoming engagement in Annapolis
- **Commissioner Henry Harris (DAV, Air Force Veteran)**
 - Shared information about a **free cell phone program** for veterans
- **Commissioner Riddick (Army Veteran, VSO National)**
 - Specializes in **veterans claims**

- Works with returning citizens (veterans re-entering society after incarceration). Asked for input and feedback around known support spaces.
- Highlighted gaps in **mental health services** and the need for ID and housing support
- **Commissioner Ethel Sligh**
 - Supporter of **April Showers**
 - Shared resources about **Veteran hygiene services**, including facilities for showers (in collaboration with Ms. Bernadette Fobb)
- **Commissioner Langston Clay**
 - Encouraged participation in **VFW and DAV chapters**
 - Advocated for increased **collaboration across Prince George's County** and neighboring areas to serve veterans effectively
 - Raised concerns about **homeless veterans**, particularly those living in wooded areas

Raw Notes:

Notes: February 3, 2025

Welcome my Fellow Veterans – there is a new Sheriff in town. Not the one at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, but the Commission for Veterans for Prince George's County.

Good evening, for those of you who do not know me, my name is Gregory W. Jackson, Chair of this outstanding commission. I would like to start with a Thank You to all for your service to this commission and our country for your service is everything to this commission and to the Veterans we serve. Change can sometimes be messy as it is exhilarating, frustrating as it is satisfying as we muddle through the processes, procedures, laws, regulations, and guidance to make change rational.

Next, I would like to bring your attention to the agenda. This is the newly resurrected agenda. This format was used back in 2018, and I believe 2019. Nonetheless, this is the agenda we will use for the time that I am the Chair.

During our meetings we will follow the Roberts Rules of Order format and processes, which we will briefly cover the basics at the next meeting. In the interest of time, because everyone's time is valuable. Before we begin,

Dr. Dula – Director of the Office of Veteran Affairs

Commissioner Henderson, Vice Chair-

- Represented the OVA and Commission by introducing myself at the Camp Springs Civic Association January meeting.
- Engaged with the Vet Force and connected with Elisa Brown, Minority/Small Business Coordinator for Anne Arundel County, to discuss challenges for businesses not receiving awards and explore coaching practices and opportunities.
- Participated in the New Year Kick-Off community engagement event hosted by Col Yolanda Gore, the first Black female commander of Ft. Meade.
- Participated in Laural's Veteran's Day Program and the District Heights Veteran's Program.

James Childs, Amvets, Army Vet, Struggling for membership, Dr. Joanne Fischer will be in Annapolis, Past National Free,

Henry Harris – DAV – Airforce Vet – Free Cell phone program, contact information,

Riddick – Army Vet, Specialize in Claims, National Association for Black Veterans, VSO National, Returning Veteran Citizen, Coming directly out of prison, no ID, no mailing address. Association for Black social workers, no mental health services for Veterans coming out of prison. Adam's House.

Ethel Sligh – Share information about Veterans, Big Supporter of April Showers, Ms.

Bernadette Fobb, place where Veterans can go and take showers,

Langston Clay

VFW needs more members, Visit the local VFW, DAV

Work collaborative with the commission within PGC and beyond. Ensure Veterans community is served. Homeless Veterans in PG county. Several houses in the pipeline. Veterans who live in wooded areas.

Dr. Dula –Women Veterans Entrepreneurs, Office of Veteran Affairs Dr. Dula

Cheat Sheet for Commissioners to use when meeting Veterans in the public.

We can acquire Volunteers to help us. Curry Administration Building

Commission, need a Secretary for the Commission

We Started the meeting @ 7:03/1903

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Welcome to all Veterans. I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Commission for Veterans of Prince George's County. While this is not an announcement from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, it is significant, nonetheless.

Good evening. For those unfamiliar with me, my name is Gregory W. Jackson, Chair of this esteemed commission. I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone for your dedication to this commission and to our country. Your service is invaluable to both this commission and the Veterans we represent. Change can be both challenging and rewarding as we navigate through various processes, procedures, laws, regulations, and guidelines to implement rational changes. Next, I would like to draw your attention to the agenda. This is a newly reinstated agenda format

used in 2018 and 2019. This format will be utilized during my tenure as the Chair. During our meetings, we will adhere to Roberts' Rules of Order. We will briefly cover the basics of this format at our next meeting to ensure efficiency, as everyone's time is valuable.

The speakers and topics for this meeting are as follows:

Dr. Dula, Director of the Office of Veteran Affairs

Henderson

James Childs, Amvets, Army Veteran: Struggles with membership; Dr. Joanne Fischer will be in Annapolis.

Henry Harris, DAV, Airforce Veteran: Free Cell phone program, contact information.

Riddick, Army Veteran: Specializes in Claims, National Association for Black Veterans, VSO National, Assists Veterans re-entering society post-incarceration.

Ethel Sligh: Information sharing about Veterans, Supporter of April Showers, collaboration with Ms. Bernadette Fobb on facility for showers for Veterans.

Langston Clay: Encourages visits to local VFW, DAV; Advocates for collaborative work within PGC and beyond to ensure the Veterans community is served.

Dr. Dula: Discusses Women Veterans Entrepreneurs and activities of the Office of Veteran Affairs

Additional points of interest include:

Homeless Veterans in PG County and housing developments underway for them

The need for volunteers to assist the Commission.

Administrative tasks such as the creation of a Secretary position.

We appreciate your attendance and contributions to these discussions. Thank you.

Adjourned the Meeting at 8:10/2000.