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COMMISSION FOR VETERANS MEETING OCTOBER 7: Agenda and Minutes

1 message

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Subject: COMMISSION FOR VETERANS MEETING OCTOBER 7: MINUTES AND REMARKS

A. MEETING OPENED AT 8:15 WITH INTRODUCTION BY DR DULA, Military/Veterans Liaison to the County Executive

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT

Introduction: the purpose of the Office of Veterans Affairs, Office of the County Executive, is to address the needs of our veteran's community.

Mission: To work with the Commission for Veterans to identify needs, issues, items of concern and create/administer programs to address each issue in a timely manner.

Agenda Items:

- a. **Veterans Day:** As we head toward November and Veterans Day, the Office of Veterans Affairs will be attending and speaking at numerous events. If our commissioners know of events we should consider attending, please submit to Dr. Dula for consideration as soon as possible.
- b. **Operation Base Camp:** remember that Operation Base Camp is held the last Wednesday of each month at 1pm, virtual. Commissioners are invited to attend this month's meeting which will be the last meeting prior to January 2025.

- c. **Joint 4-County Serving Together Collaborative** virtual meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 1pm. Commissioners are invited to attend.
- d. **Breast Cancer Awareness Month:** October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we are asking Commissioners to share this message through the target groups you represent; and to attend events within your county as representatives of the Commission for Veterans.
- e. **Hispanic Heritage Month until October 15:** The Office of Veterans Affairs is asking Commissioners to recognize Hispanic Veterans who served honorably and living in Prince Georges County by submitting the name and contact information to Dr. Dula as soon as possible. A letter will be forwarded to the veteran "thanking them for their service to the United States of America"; and continuing to serve in the crown jewel of Prince George's County.

Note: Commission meetings are open to the public. Please invite community members to join our meetings the first Monday of each month. Our mission must include outreach and awareness throughout the county.

- f. **Maryland Trust Fund:** The fund is still closed at the State level. The Office of Veterans Affairs is working with various sources to assist veterans financially as needed. We are also in the process of creating the contract with our service provider - vendor to pay funds for veterans suffering financial need. We anticipate having the new contract approved by November's meeting. This will allow OVA to meet the needs of veterans contacting our office for financial assistance up to \$2000.
- g. **Special Programs in OVA:** Many veterans are still not aware of the special programs we administer in OVA; ***we are counting on you*** to be engaged in the veterans community and share our existence here in the county and to let residents know we have various programs designed to help different target groups: Surviving Spouse Program, Warm Hearts Call list for homebound and disabled veterans, Suicide Prevention and Awareness Program, Mental Health Initiative working with Huminis Healthcare/Southern Maryland Medstar/Interdynamics/Dyer Clinic in Clinton, and more. **WE NEED YOU TO BRIEF THIS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.**
- h. **In Home Care:** OVA has partnered with several new businesses to provide in-home caregiving support for our homebound veterans. If you know of someone in need, let OVA know.
- i. **ASVAB AFQT:** The OVA Youth Mentoring Program includes helping students and young adults pass the ASVAB/Armed Forces Qualification Test by offering a special pretest program that also provides tutoring. This program is in association with the Memorial Library System in Prince George's County. If you know of a young person wishing to enter the military and in need of our assistance, have them contact the OVA.

D.COMMISSION DISCUSSION

* Commissioners discussed the rise in scams and hacking affecting the Veterans Community. Commissioners were advised to check accounts, freeze their credit, and monitor activity on a routine basis.

- * Commissioners recommended everyone to contact the Prince George's County Police Department when scams and hacks include blackmail, threats, financial requests, etc. (for further information call 240-695-3799)
- * Dr Dula reminded Commissioners that many institutions used by veterans have been hacked and AI may be used to scam residents. Everyone must be vigilant and on guard at all times.
- * Guest Langston Clay informed Commissioners that if they do not recognize phone numbers to not answer the call; to be on the safe side.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 8:15pm.

The next meeting will be November 4 at 7:00pm.

All Commissioners are encouraged to attend the virtual meetings.

And too, all Commissioners are asked to **visit the Office of Veterans Affairs once each quarter.**

We look forward to seeing you, discussing one on one issues affecting your target group and having a cup of Ms. Ella's world-famous coffee.

Respectfully: **Dr. James Dula**, USAF Retired

Veterans Affairs Officer and Liaison to the County Executive

Prince George's County

301-952-3904 (Office)

Location:

County Administration Building

Military Veterans and Families Center

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CC: *Veteran Jackson*

Veteran Henderson

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