



Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services
9830 Patuxent Woods Drive / Columbia, MD 21046

Agenda - September 1, 2022

1. Roll Call of Commission Members to Establish a Quorum

Commissioners:

Greg Jolissaint, Chair	Michael Griggs
Jonathan Branch, Co-Chair	Cherron "Lula" Blakely
Jerry Wykoff	Paul Rivers
Kelly Kesler	Reg Avery
Mike Blum	Nafrettifi Griffin
Keith McGuire	Terri Taylor

2. Acknowledgement of Howard County Government Officials in Attendance:

Lisa Terry (Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families)

3. Special Guest(s):

4. Others in Attendance:

5. Welcome by the Commission Chair/Pledge of Allegiance

6. Reminders of Virtual Meeting Etiquette

7. Guest Speaker(s):

8. Consideration of the June 2022 Meeting Minutes (Greg)

9. Opening Comments by Commission Chair (Greg)

- a. June 16th HoCo Veterans Foundation Monument Brainstorming Session
- b. July 4th Clarksville River Hill Independence Day Parade
- c. HoCo Fair – Military Appreciation Day on Saturday August 6th

10. Reoccurring Business

- a. Veterans Peer Support Group Update ([Paul Rivers](#)).
- b. Howard County Veterans Foundation Update (Bob Gillette; Lisa T).
- c. Update on VA Mental Health Council (Paul Rivers).
- d. Update on Veterans Day Presentations in HCPSS and Identifying which schools will want speakers for in-person events.
- e. Update on **HoCo Fallen Heroes Tribute page** (Lisa Terry and Greg Jolissaint). “Died in Combat” does not include those who honorably “Died of Wounds after returning to the US.” Does not include POW/MIA personnel ultimately declared to be deceased. Does not include military personnel killed in training accidents while in uniform.
- f. Update on [Health Improvement Coalition website](#) (Veterans Resource Page – Kelly)
- g. Veterans Treatment Court for HoCo (Lisa and Jerry). Still looking for a HoCo Judge to support it. Requires payment of United Way of \$110K to support the court with a Social Worker and Mentors
- h. Honor Cords for Enlisting HS Graduates (On Hold). Reg
- i. Update on the HoCo Veterans Foundation Monument Working/Brainstorming Session on June 16th. (Kelly)
- j. Outcomes from Summer Activities (Greg Jolissaint, Bob Pelletier)
 - 1) Clarksville River Hill Parade
 - 2) HoCo Fair – Military Appreciation Day on Saturday, Parade on Sunday

11. New Business

- a. **HCCVMF Veterans Commission Vacancies** (Greg and Lisa).
 - 1) Vernon “CJ” Parks has been endorsed by the CE to fill Bob Lowe’s position. Now awaiting action by the County Council.
 - 2) The CE has also recommended Michael Griggs to be reappointed to the commission. This recommendation is also awaiting action by the County Council.
 - 3) We now have a new pending vacancy that will need to be filled, but the current commissioner is allowed, by statute, to continue serving until a new Commissioner has been approved by the County Council.
- b. **October 1 Blue Star Families event** – Lisa asking for volunteers to sign up thru the HoCo Volunteer website
- c. **Howard County Joint Military Council Chair** is retiring from the military and moving out of the Army – Mike Jackson (current Chair) and Ed Hall (Past Chair and AL Post 156 Commander) have nominated Greg Jolissaint to serve as the Chair.

d. **Maryland Joint County Veteran Commission August meeting follow up** - Lisa

e. **HoCo Veterans and Military Families Commission Priorities for 2022-2023** (list below is for discussion by the Commission)

- Participate in the Clarksville July 4th Independence Day Parade; Howard County Veterans Day Parade and Lakefront Ceremony; and annual Howard County Fair in West Friendship.
- Participate/Conduct Veterans Day presentations in coordination with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS); endorse AL Poster and Essay Contests
 - Participate as judges in the HCPSS 5th grade Simulated Congressional Hearings (preferably in person).
- Support the NAMI Connection Veteran Support Group; identify and support veteran and military family behavioral health and wellness services and programs to include some type of event where resources are shared.
- Support the installation of a Veteran and Military Families monument that will be erected in the Vivian C. "Millie" Bailey Park on the Columbia Lakefront.
- Support Howard County VSO events (Flag Retirement Ceremony; etc.).
- Support the sustainment of the Fallen Heroes Tribute Page and Memorial Day Tribute Page.
- Sustain an up-to-date Veteran Resource Directory with organizations providing programs and services.
- Attend funerals for unclaimed veterans at MDVA cemetery

f. **Veterans Day Parade and Lakefront Ceremony** Sunday November 13. (Greg, ____).
1) Looking for nominations for Parade Grand Marshall. Theme: Honor Through Service
2) Working with the AL to establish a HCPSS Veterans Day Poster and Essay Contest prior to the Parade (with potential announcement of overall winners at the Ceremony)
3) Yard Signs will be available weeks prior to the Parade

g. **Howard County Joint Military Council Items of Interest** (Bob Pelletier, Vice Chair).

h. **Additional Dates of Significance:**

- 1) September 2 – Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day)
- 2) September 11 – Patriot Day in memory of 9-11 victims
- 3) September 16 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 4) September 18 – USAF Birthday (1947)
- 5) September 25 – National Gold Star Mothers Day

12. Next Commission Meeting Dates

October 6; November 3; December 1

13. Adjournment