The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held October 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Acceptance of Agenda
4. Veterans Advisory Board Minutes
   Documents:
   09-26-23 VAB MINUTES.DOCX
5. Recognitions
   ● 5.1 Veterans Corner-Chair
6. Board Member Reports
   ● 6.1 Board Reports
   ● 6.2 City Staff comments
7. Public Participation
   ● 7.1 Public comment (3 minutes)
8. Old Business
   ● 8.1 Comments on Veterans Day Parade.
9. New Business
   ● 9.1 No New Items
10. Reminders
    ● November 11 - Veteran’s Day
    ● November 23 - Thanksgiving Day
11. Adjournment

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before this event at 528-3473/V or 528-4211/TTY.

The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
    Jason Ferguson, MOPH
    Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces #80
    Christine Sautter, MOAA
    Victor Eres, USMC
    Lawrence "Sam" Bothern, DAV #10
    James (JR) Turner, VFW 10124
    Hector Sanchez, Member at Large No. 2
    John Poland, American Legion #10
    Fred Madrid, Vietnam Veterans of America

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
    Karen Woods, UMW of Southwest - Chair
    VACANT, Member at large No. 3
    VACANT, VFW 3242

STAFF PRESENT:
    Larry Nichols, Director Community Development Department, CLC
    Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

OTHERS:
    LD Palmer
    Montevis Price
    Lenwood Hampton
    Bill Hawkins

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
   Christine Sautter called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
   ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
   A quorum was determined to be present.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
Motion to accept the agenda made by Sam Bothern; seconded by John Poland. Motion passed.

4. VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES - May 23, 2023

Motion to accept the amended minutes was made by Sam Bothern; seconded by John Poland. Motion passed.

5. RECOGNITION

5.1 Veterans Corner-Chair

Christine Sautter stated that the standdown. The standdown online is last year's and has a City person but the e-mail is blocked. Suggested to add Len Hampton's name and number for contact, as he is chairing the committee.

6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

6.1 BOARD REPORTS

Hector Sanchez - Member at Large - Nothing at this time.

Victor Eres - Marine Corps League (USMC) - This past month the detachment provided funeral honors for 14 fallen veterans, two of which could not be scheduled due to lack of personnel and/or scheduling issues. November 10th, having annual Marine Corps Ball, tickets $40 each, and held at Elks Lodge on Elks Drive.

Lawrence "Sam" Bothern - Disabled American Veterans (DAV) #10 - Nothing to report.

John Poland - American Legion Post 10 - Conducted an impressive POW/MIA remembrance ceremony at their last monthly post social, last Friday. Looking forward to participating in the Veterans Day Parade on November 11th. Having a first responder recognition breakfast at Post 10 on November 18th.

Fred Madrid - Vietnam Veterans of America - They had two food drives, one at Save Mart on September 2nd and the second was at Rinconada Walmart on September 17th, and one blanket drive at the American Legion September 10th. There was a veterans car show last Sunday.
**Daniel Ansbach - Special Forces #80** - They participate in Wreaths Across America for Christmas. They purchase wreaths and put on 16 SF graves at Ft. Bliss cemetery, and some here in Las Cruces, and at the SF monument. They would like to expand their area, be able to put wreaths all military graves here in Las Cruces. They are expanding at the Veterans Park, one on the wall for each war/conflict, and a wreath at every monument. Also looking for donations or help from other organizations to expand their effort.

**Jason Ferguson - Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)** - Nothing to report.

**James (JR) Turner - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10124** - They do have flag flying twice in October, one for Firefighters Memorial Day, and the fire department will be conducting their bell ringing ceremony after the flags are raised, and then also on Columbus Day, October 9th. Post 10124 will also host the standdown on Friday, October 20th at 9:00 a.m.

**Christine Sautter, Military Officers Association of America** - They will be participating in the standdown as well as the Veteran Health and Welfare event on October 16th. Actively looking to recruit officers and warrant officers.

### 6.2 CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Larry Nichols stated the name tags for new board members will be at the next meeting. The status of the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot expansion. The request for bid is September 26th, with publishing on the 29th and out for call for bid for two weeks. The pre-bid meeting will be October 3rd. The deadline is October 10th. Opening date will be October 17th, at 2:00 p.m.

### 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lenwood Hampton stated he is the executive director of VFW NM Foundation. This group sponsors Las Cruces Veterans Helping Hand Standdown. This will involve housing services, haircuts, VSO officers will attend, social security assistance, and many other resources. This will be at Post 10124 on Valley Drive, stating at 9:00 to 1:00, with breakfast at 7:30 am. Also having pick-ups for veterans or near-homeless veterans that need a ride to the event. DAV10 is providing the ride services. The next meeting is October 4th at VFW 10124, at 11:00 a.m. He would like to be on the VAB.

Montevis Price from El Paso VA stated they have currently 12 veteran participants. One graduated last month and doing well. The Save Ride motorcycle rally for veterans suicide awareness starting September 30th, start at American Legion in
Columbus and travel to VFW in Anthony. Also a ceremony on October 1st at Veterans Memorial Park starting at 9:00. Update on covering some events at Veterans Park and has not had an answer yet from the VA, there is a community member who will be able to provide insurance for the parks.

Jesus Morales with El Paso VA Caregivers Support Program stated he joined by their social worker Angel Moreno-Ruiz. November is National Family Caregivers Month. November 3rd is caregiver appreciation resource fair. Angel Moreno-Ruiz stated his part of the initiative by the VA with positions nationally. Their goal is to develop curriculum along with resources to address the underserved population of caregivers. They hold their series once a month at the main VA. They can be contacted for either service at (915) 564-7522. They do not support spouses of veterans. The veteran does have to be enrolled in the care.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 COMMENTS ON VETERANS DAY PARADE

Bill Hawkins stated the parade is going to be on Saturday, November 11th, kickoff at 11:00, staging at 9:00 or when the streets are shut down. The theme is Honoring Desert Storm Veterans. A notification was sent out to most of the organizations about nominating Grand Marshals, and the deadline is October 15th. Goal is to limit to one Grand Marshal per branch of service, five total. The winner for the poster contest will be announced next week. Upon that announcement, posters will be produced and distributed to the board. They have about 60 participants he has information on, he feels it should go up by about 20. Last year there were complaints about access to the staging area, that area is finely controlled, but try to come in through parking lots. Access via Lohman or Main will be limited. Ten minutes before the parade begins they will do the National Anthem.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 DISCUSSION ON BOARD REPRESENTATION (VFW 6917)

Christine Sautter stated Chair Woods has contacted VFW 6917 and they do have a representative. Recollection is that they were dropped from the board due to nonparticipation. Larry Nichols stated he had the same discussion with Chair Woods. There is also vacancy for a member at large.

Motion to include VFW 6917 onto the Board was made by James Turner; seconded by Fred Madrid. Motion passed.

James Turner also mentioned Post 3242 who have failed to attend any meetings within the last year. It was suggested to look at attendance to verify the absences. Also to reach out to the Post, for which a staff member
stated she is familiar with the Post and will contact them. The commander of that post is Jimmy Armijo.

9. REMINDERS

OCTOBER 2 - FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY (HALF-STAFF)
OCTOBER 9 - COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 24 - NEXT VAB MEETING

James Turner reminded of the Honor Flight this week, for which his is a guardian. John Poland stated they are leaving Thursday morning, meeting at Memorial Medical Center, staff at 12:30 a.m., everyone else by 1:30 a.m., 3:30 a.m. bus to El Paso Airport. Showing at the airport for the veterans going to Washington DC. Fly through Austin, Texas, arrive at Reagan Airport at 4:20. Friday is tour day which is the WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, FDR Memorial, lunch at the National Museum of American History, then to Arlington National Cemetery to witness the changing of the guard, with four of the veterans presenting a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Staying in Falls Church, Virginia. Saturday return home leaving Baltimore-Washington Airport at 8:00 a.m. Back at Memorial Medical Center at 4:30 on Saturday. This is the first time three women Vietnam Veterans, two Marines, and one Army on this flight. There will be three Korean War Veterans, 31 Vietnam Veterans; 21 from El Paso and 39 from Las Cruces, 60 total.

9. ADJOURNMENT (9:46)

Motion to adjourn made by Sam Bothern; seconded by Jason Ferguson. Motion passed.