

February 5, 2026

Board Chambers

Veterans Commission

MINUTES

Members

**Jesse J. Citizen
Melanie Bell-Carter
Cheryl Lamar
Larry Zilliox**

**Donnell E. Johns, Sr.
Nancy Jean-Louis
Christopher Mayers**

Present: Commissioners Jesse Citizen, Christopher Mayers, Melanie Bell-Carter, Nancy Jean-Louis, Cheryl Lamar, and Larry Zilliox; Administrative Support Susan Washington, Tony Turnage, Kylie Phillips. Chair Citizen called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Minutes

- Minutes of November 6, 2025, deferred approval to March 2026 meeting (7:12 p.m.)

Public Comment Time

- 1 guest – (J. Johnson) shared information about newsletter: theblackveterannewsletter.com; info@theblackveterannewsletter.com

Administrative Remarks

- The Chair is deferring Administrative Remarks to the March 2026 meeting

Work Session

- Veteran’s Meet-up, February 7, 12-3 in Manassas – Commissioner Mayers
- Veteran’s Docket background, purpose and awareness – Commissioner Mayers

New Business

- In preparation for Commission role elections for the March 2026 meeting, will share the Commission bylaws and etc.

Commissioner’s Time

- **Commissioner Bell -Carter** – welcome!
- **Commissioner Zilliox** – will circulate the Veteran’s service directory – to look into future guest speakers. Achieved a grant to put in a broadcast studio. Episode with Elizabeth Dole learned of a received a substantial donation from the Bob and Deloris Hope Foundation.

- **Commissioner Jean-Louis**– Who can we reach out to get a briefing on how the County addresses the Veteran’s homelessness – what is being done to identify them and provide a shelter? The DSS Homeless Services Division is responsible for supporting Veterans and any unhoused individuals and works with several entities to help provide outreach and support. Further discussion around the services ensued.
- **Commissioner Lamar**– [“Barring Act”](#) – limited compensation to 6 years through Soto v US this limit has been removed/modified. Additionally, the wording for “combat” language is confusing to veteran’s to claim the applicable CRSC funds. Further conversation occurred around the update of the change to the law and the criteria to be eligible. [National Veterans Legal Services Program](#) that will help Veterans complete the application for free.
- **Commissioner Mayers**– Looking forward to the future of Commission. Interested in sending out a needs survey to be able to understand what it should focus on. How to address the varying needs of Veterans. Seeking support for the ability to engage.
- **Commissioner Citizen**– Use the “Otter AI” for the notes?

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm. (Mayers-motion/Lamar-seconded/unanimous)