

Meeting with Mayor Garcia (Jan 26th 1530)

1. **New Member to VAB – Ari Jonty.** Awaiting appointment letter for both new VAB Chair and new member – clerk will correlate to guidelines.
2. **Veteran Art in Hallway.**
 - a. Mayor agreed to keep the art rotation cycle. He would like to see some signage/plaque clarifying for the public what the art is all about – SIMPLE.
3. **Lorraine’s material.**
 - a. Mayor interested in concept of Project Lifesaver and will contact Lorraine separately for more details.
4. **Space for Post 12**
 - a. Mayor took on the request and will personally work with the executive team to push the request and legality/liability forward. He will get back to me “within a couple of weeks” with a response or request for meeting to update.
5. **250th celebration.**
 - a. He didn’t know of any plans and it has not come up in meetings or Council.
 - b. Provided him with information on Governor’s statewide actions/plans = website for more information.
 - c. He requested the VAB work with veteran groups to come up with some ideas for a city-wide for the celebration.
6. **Multi-year Veteran Alliance Contract**
 - a. Henri is no longer with the city. Handed the Mayor email from Elizabeth Martin. He will contact her and Henri’s replacement to get more information.
 - b. I discussed prior problems of funding and the necessity for continuance of program. He agreed that there is need to mitigate funding issues and will get back to me with what he found out.
7. **Veteran Parade – huge issue among veteran groups.**
 - a. He seemed to be fully supportive and will bring the issue up with the executive team.
 - b. He recommended if continue to have ceremony in Convention Center (he’s all for this) then may a route could start at the Bataan Memorial and end at the Convention Center.
 - c. He is tasking the VAB to look at viability and provide plan to city as this would be a City-Sponsored event.
 - d. I previously met with Deputy Chief Ben Valdez who was all in favor of resurrecting the parade. He’s willing to work with VAB on planning and route management.
8. **VAB Strategic Plan**
 - a. The Mayor would like to see more on suicide prevention and better coordination between service agencies on homelessness.
 - b. He would also like to see celebratory events that engage the city to also be part of the Plan.
 - c. He would like to see a draft for review before finalization.
9. **VAB Meetings**
 - a. He questioned why in Agua Fria building. Why not, if schedule not conflicting in Council Chambers and or Councilor’s conference room. I would propose this to the VAB and get back to him.
 - b. Invited him to a meet/greet with VAB at Feb 17th meeting. He appreciated the invite and will make attempt to be there even if for a short time.
 - c. He emphasized that members of the VAB who liaise with veteran and community groups his thanks and gratitude for what we’re doing to bring city and veterans together.

Overall good meeting as he took on and summarize action items he would work on and those for the VAB. His emphasis is to bring groups together; engage the city more; advertise those engagements more fully across all platforms (Veteran group sites and city social media sites. Let’s let our citizens and community know what we’re doing. He also seemed to listen more attentively to requests and recommendations stressing he would “put requests forward to the executive team as an action item”.