



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

August 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lawrence "Sam" Bothern, DAV #10 - Chair
James (JR) Turner, VFW 10124 - Vice-Chair
Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces #80
James Perry Ashby, American Legion #10
Victor Eres, USMC
Jason Ferguson, MOPH
Luke Rosendo Keith, VFW 3242
Fred Madrid, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chap. 431
Brian Morrow, Member at Large
Brandon Robinson, Member at Large
Hector Sanchez, Member at Large

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Beverly Drum, UMW of Southwest
VACANT, MOAA

STAFF PRESENT:

Charles Tucker, CLC Inspector General
Annette Granado, CLC Administration

OTHERS:

Eric Enriquez, Mayor
Bruce Fonnest
Bill Hawkins
Len Hampton
Dan Lucero

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bothern 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

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2 Motion to accept the agenda made by Victor Eres; seconded by Brian Morrow.
3 Motion passed unanimously.
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5 **4. VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES - July 22, 2025**
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7 Correction for July minutes, page 3, line 27, "DD14" should be "DD214." Page 2,
8 line 29 and 30, the program is the "Veterans Court Treatment Program."
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10 Motion to accept the minutes with amendments made by Victor Eres; seconded by
11 Jason Ferguson. Motion passed unanimously.
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13 **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
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15 Eric Enriquez, CLC Mayor, thanked the board for all they do. He got an invite to
16 take a photo with the Honor Guard as they got first place in competition. It is great
17 to pass by Veterans Park and see the parking lot completed. The veterans are
18 greatly appreciated. Praised the Honor Guard.
19

20 Bruce Fonnest, President of Vietnam Veterans of America, announced George
21 Baird is in very, very bad shape. Suggested visiting him. Son's name is Steven
22 Baird (615) 708-2803, please call before visiting to have dogs restrained.
23

24 Bill Hawkins, Veterans Parade, stated they started planning last month. The
25 parade is going to be on Saturday, November 8th. The staging is as usual starting
26 at 9:00. Parade starts at 11:00. The route is the same. The theme this year is
27 Training and Honoring America's Future Leaders. They are recognizing at the high
28 school level the ROTC instructors who are veterans. Trying to get the schools
29 more involved, so recognizing some of the teachers. He asked for organizations
30 current point of contact, name and number.
31

32 Dan Lucero stated there were some vacancies on the board and wanted to put his
33 name for that. He was advised to stop by the Clerk's office to do paperwork.
34

35 Len Hampton wanted to make everyone aware of the Veterans stand Down Day,
36 October 24, 2025 8:00 am to 1:00 pm location VFW Post 10124 Valley Drive.
37 Breakfast will be served at 7:30 am. Veteran Golf Tournament the V-FAST 4th
38 annual on October 4th 2025, at Red Hawk Golf Course. \$175.00 per person
39 \$600.00 for the Grunt Squad. 11:30 Registration, 1:00 pm shotgun start.
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41 RECORDING ISSUES AFTER 15 MINUTES.
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43 **6. AGENDA ITEMS TO DISCUSS**
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- 45 ○ New Appointments to the Veterans Advisory Board
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- James Ashby - New Appointment to the Veterans Advisory Board (American Legion #10)

- Luke Keith - New Appointment to the Veterans Advisory Board (VFW 3242)

- Reappointment to the Veterans Advisory board
 - Daniel Ansbach - Reappointment to the Veterans Advisory Board (Special Forces #80)

 - Sam Bothern - Reappointment to the Veterans Advisory Board (DAV #10)

- Update on the new Garrison Flag was moved to the City Staff Liaison report.

- Ordinance Update was moved to the City Staff Liaison report.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Victor Eres - USMC – On Sunday August 24, 2025, the Las Cruces area Marine Corp League, El Perro Diablo Detachment 478, took 1st place in all 3 events at the Statewide Honor Guard competition held in Albuquerque New Mexico. The Detachment Honor Guard competed in all three categories Small Honor Guard, Medium Honor Guard, and Large Honor Guard. The Marine Corp League, El Perro Diablo Detachment 478, took 1st place in all 3 events for the state of New Mexico.

James Perry Ashby - American Legion #10 – New to board, no report.

Fred Madrid - Vietnam Veterans of America – Two food drives, the first food drive is at Save Mart on Valley drive on September 7, 2025. It starts at 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The second food drive is at the Sonoma Ranch Walmart on September 21st, 2025, from 7:30 am - 2:00 pm

Luke Rosendo Keith - VFW 3242 – New so nothing this week.

Daniel Ansbach - Special Forces #80 – Nothing to report.

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

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4 **Brandon Robinson - Member at Large** – Nothing to add.

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6 **Brian Morrow - Member at Large** – Nothing to add but wanted to bring up the
7 fact that he missed last month due to a change in date and it was not his fault.

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9 **James Turner - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10124** – Garrison Flag dates
10 on the flyer if interested.

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12 **Lawrence "Sam" Bothern - Disabled American Veterans (DAV) #10** - My
13 report was a reminder of the veterans' benefits workshop,
14 Sept 11 at St Genvieve Parish Hall.

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17 **8. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

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19 Charles Tucker the City Staff Liaison reported that the City facilities manager
20 received a quote for the cost of the Garrison flag Garrison flag. If we go with the
21 cheaper nylon flag it will cost \$1712.50. If we go with the Polyester, a more durable
22 flag, it will cost \$2,085.95. But the city is working on getting this done. Mr. Tucker
23 then stated he had attended the Marine Corp League meeting, and it was amazing
24 from the camaraderie to the respect they gave not only their Marines but the
25 members who have served in other branches as well. Mr. Tucker mentioned the
26 Marine Corp Ball on November 8, 2025, at Hotel Encanto and how he will attend.
27 Mr. Tucker then talked about the Honor Flight Remembrance he attended on
28 August 23, 2025, and how moving it was. Mr. Tucker wished his father, who served
29 3 tours in Vietnam, could have had this same closure. Then Mr. Tucker talked
30 about his last visit to a VA councilor. The councilor they sent him to was in his late
31 20's and Mr. Tucker expressed his frustration at having been sent to see this kid
32 who had never served and how can they expect me to talk with someone like this?
33 Mr. Tucker then said he realized he was alone in this and even the Veterans
34 Administration was not taking this issue seriously.

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36 **9. ADJOURNMENT 09:53)**

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38 Motion to adjourn made by Brandon Robinson (Member at large), seconded by
39 Luke Kieth, (VFW 3242). Motion passed.

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Chairperson