



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Board of Supervisors



**Date:** October 15, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** November 3, 2015  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisor Warren Slocum

**Subject:** Recommendation for Appointments to the San Mateo County Veterans Commission

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommendation:

A) For appointments to the San Mateo County Veterans Commission, terms ending June 30, 2018:

1. Lisa King, San Mateo
2. Edmund Bridges, Redwood City
3. Mark Leach, San Mateo
4. Paul (Hank) Scherf, Menlo Park
5. Myra Weiher, Redwood City
6. Kai Martin, Pacifica

B) For appointments to the San Mateo County Veterans Commission, terms ending June 30, 2017:

1. Sherry Corcoran, Menlo Park
2. Ron Dickson, Foster City
3. Fred Baer, Foster City
4. Alfred Banfield, South San Francisco
5. Francisco Oliva, Redwood City

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 2, 2015, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 073812 establishing the San Mateo County Veterans' Commission.

The Veterans' Commission will provide a public forum for input from the veterans community to identify unmet needs; work with existing veterans' advocacy and service organizations to help coordinate systems of care and benefits; act as an advocate for veterans, take positions pertinent to federal, state and local policies, programs, procedures and legislation affecting veterans and their families; and fulfill other duties and engage in other activities as directed by the Board of Supervisors.

On July 17, the five-week application period was opened to form the Veterans' Commission, whose composition would reflect the diversity of veterans in this county and those who provide services to them. Ninety six applications were received by the application deadline of August 21, 2015, and 35 were selected by a screening committee comprised of county staff, including one veteran. Candidate interviews were subsequently held on September 23-25, and October 9, 2015 by a panel comprised of Supervisor Warren Slocum, Supervisor Don Horsley, and Donna Vaillancourt, who currently serves as the County of San Mateo's Director of the Human Resources Department and is herself a military veteran.

The Selection Committee for the San Mateo Veterans' Commission has completed the interview process for the Commissioner vacancies. Eleven applicants have been recommended to serve as the founding members of the new Veterans Commission. The appointment of the recommended applicants is contingent on the Board of Supervisors approval.

The Commission is slated to hold its first meeting on November 16, 2015.

**DISCUSSION:**

These appointments contribute to the 2025 Shared Vision statement of a Healthy Community by supporting increased access by veterans to critical services and benefits in the County, especially by underserved segments like senior and women veterans. It fosters a Livable Community by providing a platform to address affordable housing, emergency and transitional shelter and related services for low-income and homeless veterans. Finally, it promotes a Collaborative Community by encouraging veterans and others who have an abiding interest in veterans affairs to become civically engaged, as well as by helping to educate the broader community about veterans issues.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Resources to staff and support to the Commission' work will be determined once the goals and priorities of the Commission have been established. Commissioners serve on voluntary basis; no compensation is provided. Currently, required staff support is estimated not to exceed .2 FTE and will be provided by the Human Services Agency.