

AGENDA

LOWELL VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, 14th October 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location: Council Chambers at City Hall 375 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA

Meeting:

a. Call to Order: 5:00 PM

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Roll Call Attendance

PARADISE, PAUL

GAFFNEY, JAMES III

COTE, RICHARD A.

HARMON, JAMES

PEEPLES, MICHAEL

CEROVAC, ROBERT

GAUTHIER, PHILIAS

PIMENTEL, NAYELI

PEEPLES, JEAN, SUB COMMITTEE MEMBER

ERIC LAMARCHE, DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES

1. The meeting place of future Veterans Commission meetings is needed as the Lowell Telemedia Center is still under construction following a water leak. The Veterans Commission meeting, originally scheduled for 11/11/26 (which falls of the Veterans Day Holiday) has been rescheduled to 11/18/26 and may be held at the Lowell Telemedia Center (if available), with subsequent meetings being held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Mayor's Receptions room was booked. An alternate location for the 11/18/26 meeting could be the Senior Center.

2. Veterans Day Events:

a. A flyer of event activities needs to be circulated. The CASE Office will provide a flyer.

b. Eric is taking care of the food and refreshments for the event.

Additional details:

Military music played prior to the start of the event. The National Anthem.

Display on the visual screen: *Sponsored by the Veterans Commission and the City of Lowell.*

Opening remarks Eric Lemarche, Director of Veterans Services Lowell MA

Pledge of Allegiance.

Imogene Stulken, Minister, Campus Ministries at UMass Lowell to perform the Benediction.

Potential guest speakers and invited guests:

Paul Paradise, Chairman of the Veterans Commission Lowell MA

Speaker Secretary of Veterans Services of Massachusetts

Dr. Elizabeth Parrott, Director of the Lowell Vet Center

Senator Steven Panagiotakos. Mellisa of the CASE Office confirmed he will be a part of the event. Possible idea to have him present flowers to fallen soldier's family.

Ted Serozynsky, Director Military and Veteran Services UMass Lowell

Honor Guard Lowell Police Department
Lowell Fire Department
Scouts of American
US Congress and State Congress invites
City of Lowell City Manager
City of Lowell Mayor and City Council members
Lowell High School ROTC
Speaker from Lowell Catholic High School to speak about the plaque dedication to Landry
Hidden Battles
Dept. of Veterans Affairs Bedford
VFW
National Guard
Bridge Club

Details of additional logistics of the event:

The reading of letter requested from Lt. Col. James Ogonowski (**no response from our request for a letter**).

Humvee displayed on the plaza of the Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Decorations, bunting, and flags

Play Taps – and a moment of silence

Closing remarks

3. **UMass Lowell Hockey night** (during the Veterans Day appreciation night). An idea to have a giant thank you card for guests to sign honoring the service of Veterans to be delivered to the Veterans Administration Hospital Bedford, MA. In addition, the idea of “Pass the Helmet” to raise funds to help Veterans in need. Eric LeMarche reported about a program called Chapter 60 Community Funds for Veterans that may be possible to help with donations. Vice Chairman Robert Cerovac approved a letter to President Martin Meehan of the University of Massachusetts to help coordinate this event, as well as asking for support of the students to join in the events of the Veterans Commission and help support the community. A copy of the letter is attached and needs approval. Possible dates include 11/6/26, 11/13/26. or 11/14/ 26.

4. Participation by the Veterans Commission at the **Golden Gloves Veterans Appreciation Night**.

5. City of Lights Parade:

- a. The Veterans Commission will participate in providing a float in the City of Lights Parade to honor Veterans. Chairman Paul Paradise offered his truck and flatbed to provide the transportation. The Commission members will participate in decorating the float. An idea to have a holiday tree decorated in red, white, and blue lights, an eagle at the top of the tree, American Flags, bunting, US Military logos, and banners saying sponsored by the Veterans Commission of Lowell. Also, a banner “To All Veterans, Thank You For Your Service”. The CASE Office will provide a link to this event when available.

6. The Veterans Recognition Program

Commission member James Gaffney has provided the following criteria for the program: *A Distinguished Lowell Veteran is a military veteran who has served honorably in the Armed forces of the United States of America and has made a significant contribution to the city or its residents. Lowell residence is not a requirement, but the contribution must be to this city.* Suggestions for letters to organizations and dignitaries are needed requesting their nominations for the Veterans Recognition Program. A pop up display asking for recommendations for the program will be included on all Veterans Commission's vendor tables during events.

7. Veterans Commission Member James Gaffney suggested the Veterans Commission should **adopt a catchphrase** and supplied several suggestions that will be submitted to the CASE Office and the Law Department of the City of Lowell for approval.

8. New Business:

- a. Paul Paradise provided details of a Lowell High School ROTC Student and Lowell Police Cadet's lifesaving heroics in saving an autistic child from drowning. Plans are needed to honor the student at a future meeting.
- b. Meet and Greet invites to speak at the Veterans Commission meetings. After the elections potential invitees include our State Representatives.
- c. Secure the Lowell Memorial Auditorium for next year's Veterans Day Event 11/10/27. **Wreaths Across America** confirmed application for their participation and it is free. Copy of the confirmation is attached.
- d. The balance of the funds for the Veterans Commission was updated by Eric. The Balance is \$6,700.00. Details on the criteria for using the funds is needed and clarify if it would be up to the Veterans Commission members.
- e. The ordering of a Banner for future events: "*Sponsored by the Veterans Commission of Lowell*" will be put in place soon.
- f. Google email is soon to release the Veterans Commission GMail account, and the files will be available to access. The Veterans Commission Website and social media platforms (Facebook page) are still under construction.
- g. Order new business cards for the Veterans Commission.

9. Approval of meeting Minutes of Veterans Commission meeting of 9/9/26.

Regularly scheduled meetings of the Lowell Veterans Commission are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month Lowell Telemedia Center, 246 Market St, Lowell, MA 01852 starting at 5:00 PM. The following is a list of scheduled meetings: September 9, 2026, October 14, 2026, November 11, 2026 (rescheduled to November 18, 2026), December 9, 2026, January 13, 2027, February 10, 2027, March 10, 2027, April 14, 2027, May 12, 2027, and. June 9, 2027.