

MINUTES

LOWELL VETERANS COMMISSION

DATE: Wednesday, 9th of September 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location: Mayor's Reception Room City Hall

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 (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)
 - PEEPLES, MICHAEL
 - CEROVAC, ROBERT
 - GAUTHIER, PHILIAS
 - PIMENTEL, NAYELI (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)
 - PEEPLES, JEAN, SUB COMMITTEE MEMBER
 - ERIC LAMARCHE, DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES
 - LEVER, TIFFANY, LOWELL VET CENTER
 - DESROCHES, MELISSA, CASE OFFICE CITY OF LOWELL

Discussion:

1. Guest speakers:

- a. **Tiffany Lever of the Lowell Vet Center** updated the Veterans Commission regarding the events sponsored by the Lowell Vet Center. She provided business cards and flyers.

- The Lowell Vet Center participates in many Lowell community service events such as the following upcoming events:

The Global War on Terror 25th Year Remembrance Ceremony Friday, 10/9/26 at 10:30 AM at the Lowell Senior Center. This event will host the VAU Fallen Heros Memorial on display.

Trunk or Treat Tuesday, 10/27/26 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Tyngsboro American Legion. The Veterans Commission will be participating in this event, as will Eric Lemarche, Director of Veterans Services City of Lowell.

- Tiffany updated the Veterans Commission on the details of The Global War on Terror 25th Year Remembrance Ceremony. Including planning of Police Escorts, Honor Guard, ROTC, fundraising, invites, and refreshments. The Veterans Commission will host a vendor table at this event.

- Tiffany Lever and Dr. Elizabeth Parrott, Director of the Lowell Vet Center are invitees to the Veterans Commission's Veterans Day event November 10, 2026, at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium at 10:00 AM.

b. **Melissa Desroches, CASE Office City of Lowell** updated the Veterans Commission on the CASE Office support for the upcoming events of the Veterans Commission.

- The Veterans Day Event, 11/10/26 at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium is at 10:00 AM. The staff of the CASE Office will create a flyer to circulate. Previous flyers will be sent from the Veterans Commission to help create the flyer. A request was made to forward photos and information to the CASE Office regarding the plaque being presented at the Veterans Day Event in memory of the fallen soldier Landry.
- The Veterans Commission is hosting a float in the City of Lights Parade Saturday November 28, 2026, starting at Jackson Street. The CASE Office will forward the link to sign up for the parade once it is posted. Sophia Boucher is the point person on this event. The Committee for the City of Lights Parade may provide a banner...*Sponsored by the Lowell Veterans Commission.*

2. Eric Lamarche and Paul Paradise updated the Veterans Commission about the upcoming Veterans Day Event hosted by the Veterans Commission on 11/10/26 at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium at 10:00 AM. Eric and Melissa requested details from the notes of the Veterans Commission meeting be forwarded to them: Details of the planning of the event include:

- The food for the event has been reduced to reduce costs.
- Military music played prior to start of event. The National Anthem.
- Display on the visual screen behind podium *Veterans Day Event sponsored by the Veterans Commission and the City of Lowell.*
- Opening remarks, Master of Ceremonies Eric Lemarche, Director of Veterans Services.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Imogene Stulken, Minister, Campus Ministries at UMass Lowell to perform the Benediction.
- Potential guest speakers and invited guests are:
Paul Paradise, Chairman of the Veterans Commission Lowell MA
Speaker Secretary of Veterans Services of Massachusetts
Senator Steven Panagiotakos
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 invitees
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
Veteran Landry
Hidden Battles
Dept. of Veterans Affairs Bedford
VFW
National Guard
Bridge Club

- Details of additional logistics of the event are:
The reading of letter requested from Lt. Col. James Ogonowski
Humvee displayed on the plaza of the Lowell Memorial Auditorium
Decorations, bunting, and flags
Play Taps – and a moment of silence.
Closing remarks

3. The meeting place of future Veterans Commission meetings was discussed as the Lowell Telemedia Center is still under construction following a water leak. Member Jay Gaffney has taken the lead and was asked to acquire the Mayor's Reception Room for our next meeting, 10/14, 2026. The Veterans Commission meeting originally scheduled for 11/11/26 (which falls of the Veterans Day Holiday) has been rescheduled to 11/18/2026 and may be held at the Lowell Telemedia Center (if available), with subsequent meetings being held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
4. Veterans Commission member Jay Gaffney asked the Commission members to keep Veteran Jack Sullivan in their thoughts and prayer as he is battling health issues. Also, the possibility of a slogan for the Commission. This is being reviewed by the City of Lowell's Law Department.
5. Commission member Phil Gauthier reviewed the status of the Commission's Face Book Page which is still under construction and being reviewed by the Law Department.
6. Chairman Paul Paradise reviewed the status of the Commission's Website, access and passwords, as well as business cards.
7. The Veterans Recognition Program was reviewed. 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.*
8. Discussion about how Veterans license plates are free and provide two-hour free parking in downtown Lowell. One plate only per Veteran.
9. Paul Paradise provided details of a Lowell High School ROTC Student and Lowell Police Cadet's life saving heroics in saving an autistic child from drowning. A vote was taken to honor the student during a future Veterans Commission Meeting. The vote was unanimous and approved.
10. Other Upcoming Events:

The Veterans Commission would like to host a Vendor table at the UMass of Lowell Hockey Night during their Veterans Appreciation Night with a giant thank you card for guests to sign for the Veterans at Veterans Administration Hospital in Bedford MA. Additional ideas are to possibly solicit donations for Veterans in need by “Passing the Helmet”. 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.

The Veterans Commission would like to host a Vendor table at the Golden Gloves Veterans Appreciation Night as well.

The Veterans Commission will be hosting a float in the City of Lights Parade 11/28/26.

11. New Business:

- a. Meet and Greet invites to speak at the Veterans Commission meetings. After the elections potential invitees include our State Representatives.
- b. Secure the Lowell Memorial Auditorium for next year’s Veterans Day Event 11/10/27.
- c. Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Van has been requested to be on display during the 2027 Veterans Day Event. A confirmation was received and they will update the Commission if available.
- 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. Approval of meeting Minutes of Veterans Commission meeting of June was granted.

12. Conclusion:

Move to adjourn.

Adjourned Time: 5:45 PM

- a. Move –Chairman Paul Paradise
- b. 2nd –Secretary, Michael Peebles
- c. Unanimous approval

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.