



Veteran and Military Affairs Update

Paul Albright, Chief Military Officer
Veteran and Military Affairs

Goal 1 – Cultivate an Environment Conducive to Strong, Sustainable
Economic Development

Goal 5 – Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication
Amongst all Members of the Community

Goal 8- Nurture and Promote a Healthy, Sustainable Community



The City of El Paso Veteran and Military Affairs



El Paso is ranked 7th Nationwide in Best Cities for Veterans Homebuyers

Veteran Employment

- “We Hire Vets” 13.8% employment rate
- Tax Incentives for businesses that hire Veterans
- Updated Eligible Lists
- Removed wording “Candidate must have...” from job postings.
- Military Occupational Specialties on all City Job postings.
- HR4VETS - provides veterans resources for employment
- The Bridge Fellowship Program

Veteran Homelessness

- Funded \$369,000 to the Veterans Tenant-Based Rental Assistance plus Case Management Program.
- Further Funding allocated thru DCHD for the following homeless programs:
 - CASFV
 - Shelter for Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence
 - Emergency Health Network
 - Street Outreach
 - Opportunity Center for the Homeless
 - Outreach Initiative
 - Opportunity Center for the Homeless
 - Willie Sanchez Rosales Family Center
 - Reynold’s Home
 - Moving Forward Program
 - The Salvation Army
 - Red Shield Family Center



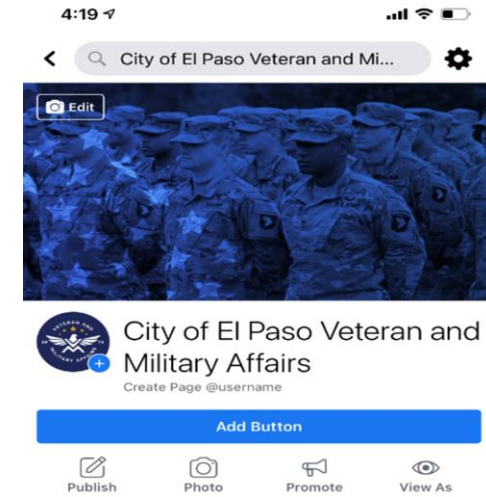
The City of El Paso Veteran and Military Affairs



Endeavors to invest in a \$15 million Veteran Wellness center in El Paso
In response to the El Paso Veterans Needs Assessment conducted in 2019

Veteran Marketing and Communication

- \$25,000 in allocated funding for marketing and communication
- Upgraded Veteran and Military Affairs website
- Sun City Bliss: Highlights Veteran and Military affairs topics across El Paso.
- Visit El Paso mobile App. Dedicated military link
- Fort Bliss Welcome Video: For military soldiers and families PCS'ing into Fort Bliss.
- Social Media presence. Facebook and Instagram
- City video programming: Your City in Five and Fact Friday.



The Veteran Affairs Advisory Committee

❖ Mayor Appt	Lance Lehr (Chair)	Term Expires	6/15/2023
❖ District 1	Victor Casas	Term Expires	9/7/2023
❖ District 2	VACANT	Term Expires	
❖ District 3	Rodney Washington	Term Expires	9/5/2023
❖ District 4	Jonathan Bohannon	Term Expires	6/29/2025
❖ District 5	Laura Butler (Secretary)	Term Expires	5/4/2023
❖ District 6	Bruce Biegel (Vice-Chair)	Term Expires	7/1/2023
❖ District 7	Justin Rotti	Term Expires	10/19/2023
❖ District 8	Melissa Harcrow	Term Expires	10/03/2023

Veterans Employment

- **Key Concerns**

Hiring Veterans, Transitioning Service Members and Military Spouses into meaningful employment.

- **Lines of Effort**

Providing Information to and participation with local businesses.

Translation of Military Specialties to City/County job opportunities.

Participation in Veterans, Transitioning Service Members, and Military Spouse focused Hiring Fairs.

- **Recommendations**

Continue the support and implementation of Veteran Employment Program into the HR administrative policies and procedures.

Use available City resources and leverage the city's relationship with local business and Fort Bliss to advocate for hiring veterans.

As we strive to become the best city for Veterans to live and work, we must all build upon the successes of our cities HR Department and the Council's and Administrations support.

We should be proud of earning the “We Hire Vets” award every year since it's inception. Our goal of 15% of city workforce by 2025 is well within our grasp.

The next step is to use our knowledge and platform to encourage the employers in El Paso to do likewise.

El Paso is the best place for Veterans to live and work.



The ‘We Hire Vets’ program recognizes Texas employers for their commitment to hiring veterans.

Homelessness

- **Key Concerns:**

Continue support to the VTBRA+ Program to assist “hard to place” Veterans into permanent housing.

Examine criteria to be able to serve a wider range of displaced homeless Veterans

Examine best practices - timeliness entry into program, case management (progressive engagement)

- **Lines of Effort**

Funding availability for VTBRA+.

The VAAC should participate as a member of the Vulnerable Population Support Task force.

- **Recommendations**

Fund the VTBRA+ to get to the eradication of homelessness

Mandate that all Veterans are enrolled in HMIS and assessed via Coordinated Entry Before Receiving Services

Eliminate silos amongst stakeholders for more transparency

Marketing and Communication

- **Key Concerns**

Reaching out to the 18-20% of our population that includes Veterans, their families and spouses, and active-duty Soldiers., especially those in the transition process.

- **Lines of Effort**

Providing Information to the large population of military related people present in the city and region.

Expand Veteran presence on our web pages and social media sites and build a comprehensive strategy to connect with Veterans and Service Members.

- **Recommendations**

Use available City resources to build a strategic communications plan that reaches our target population.

Provide marketing resources to be used to reach out to Veterans and their spouses and families.



Veteran's Affairs Advisory Committee Recommendations



We ask council to *continue funding* of the homelessness project known as VTBRA+



We ask council to *provide funding to market to veterans.*



We ask that council to use available City resources and leverage the city's relationship with local business and Fort Bliss to advocate for hiring veterans.

Thank you!

***Working Towards a Veteran
Ready El Paso***

