



American Legion  
**MEL BAHER**  
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans  
**FRANK POCCHI**  
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans  
**LENON WRIGHT**  
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
**JAMES RILEY**  
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America  
**BOB POTTS**  
COMMISSIONER

## Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

**JON REISS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FERONNE WILLIAMS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

### MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** July 23, 2025 9:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** James Riley, President  
Frank Pocci, Vice President  
Lenon Wright, Secretary  
Mel Baher, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director  
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary  
Craig Morice, Assistant County Prosecutor

**EXCUSED:** Bob Potts, Commissioner

**VISITORS:** Rosie Palphy – Cleveland Documenters  
Stesia Swain – Cleveland Documenters

**PURPOSE:** GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Riley with the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Lenon Wright called roll.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes). Motion seconded by Frank Pocci Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Executive Director gave his weekly building update. Everything is progressing well. Water fountains and work stations are in and the glass in the doors will be installed soon. The contractor is exploring options for repairs on cracked windows.

All documents pertaining to the lease for the storage facility have been submitted to the county. The VSC is waiting for final approval.

Conversations with the Sheriff's Department continue. Once the plan is solidified, Protective Services will be notified.

The OPS Tracker was reviewed by the Board. The final bills from the 1849 Prospect location have been received and paid.

The MOU for the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial was discussed. The board requested that Mr. Reiss reach out to leadership of the Memorial to clear up questions about ownership, safety and security. The MOU will be approved and signed at a future board meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Hometown banners for veterans were discussed. The board is in agreement to assist in funding but would like more information. Director Reiss will reach out to the communities to see which has the banners and how they are funded. Once a list is composed, more details will be discussed. It was mentioned that local posts may also assist in funding.

On September 13, 2025, the Veterans Service Commission is partnering with the Cleveland Firefighters for Family Fun Day with veteran resources. There will be fireworks at the event.

Director Reiss presented a proposal from Channel 5 for advertising on TV and digitally, which will be more targeted. Mr. Reiss will reach out to Channel 5 to clarify the details.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve resolution 2025-21 providing for the purchase of Hometown Heroes banners to honor veterans of Cuyahoga County. The agreement will be with various vendors Not to exceed \$250,000. Motion seconded by Lenon Wright. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve resolution 2025-22 providing for the purchase agreement with American Fireworks for the fireworks display at a joint event between the City of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, not to exceed \$21,000. Motion seconded by Lenon Wright. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None.

A motion was made by Mel Baher to approve resolution 2025-23 providing for the purchase of Honor Guard uniforms and equipment to honor deceased veterans of Cuyahoga County, not to exceed \$50,000. Motion seconded by Lenon Wright. Discussion: None.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Jon Reiss briefed the board on Remarkable Tablets. The tablets would allow the commissioners and executive team to load board meeting documents on the tablets for review at the board meeting. This will allow the commissioners to review the meeting information prior to the meeting and cut down significantly on the number of documents that are currently being printed. The board is in agreement, and the tablets will be ordered as soon as possible.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

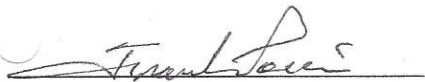
A motion was made by Mel Baher to go into Executive Session to consider client cases and appeals, pending legal action, and compensation and employment of a public employee. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:34 a.m.)

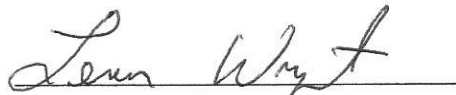
The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:30 a.m. In Executive Session the Board discussed client cases and appeals, pending legal action, and compensation and employment of a public employee.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Motion seconded by Frank Pocci.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Riley, Wright. NAYS: None. Motion carried.



Jim Riley, President



Lenon Wright, Secretary

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Financial Assistance Manager:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

John Rosine, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-4798)

Geniece Garner (216)-698-4955

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)

Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)