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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Minutes of September 2018 Commission Meeting

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (the Commission) held a meeting on September 19-21, 2018, in Los Angeles, CA and San Diego, CA. The meeting concerned organizational and other pre-decisional and deliberative matters and was closed to the public pursuant to Public Law 114-328, section 554(b)(3). The Commissioners agreed to make a separate version of these minutes available to the public.

Attendance

Commissioners present:

- Mr. Edward Allard
- Mr. Steve Barney
- The Honorable Dr. Janine Davidson
- Ms. Avril Haines (except for part of 9/19)
- The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck
- Ms. Jeanette James
- Mr. Alan Khazei (not present for business meetings on 9/19, 9/21)
- Mr. Thomas Kilgannon (only for business meeting on 9/19)
- Ms. Shawn Skelly
- The Honorable Debra Wada
- Ms. Jeanette James

Commissioners absent:

- The Honorable Mark Gearan

Staff present:

- Kent Abernathy, Executive Director
- Paul Lekas, General Counsel
- Keri Lowry, Director of Government Affairs and Public Engagement
- Jill Rough, Director of Research and Analysis
- Yolanda Hands, Deputy Director of Operations
- Other Commission staff

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September 19, 2018

Business Meeting

The Commission convened at 0735 PT in Los Angeles to hold a business meeting. Present were Commissioners Allard, Barney, Davidson, Heck, James, Kilgannon, Skelly, and Wada. The Chairman moved to close this and other business meetings to occur on September 19-21 because pre-decisional and organizational matters would be deliberated. All Commissioners present agreed.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Heck then moved to approve minutes from the August 2018 Commission meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the August 2018 minutes with minor edits.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Heck announced that with Gregg Brinsfield's departure, Peter Morgan would become the Director of Operations and Yolanda Hands would become the Deputy Director for Operations.

Chairman Heck also announced that he had instructed staff to arrange for a small group of Commissioners to make a visit to a location in the Pacific Northwest sometime in 2018. He mentioned Boise, Portland, and Seattle as possible destinations. Chairman Heck asked Commissioners Allard, Davidson, and Wada to participate due to their proximity. Ms. Lowry will coordinate schedules and an agenda with those Commissioners.

Trip Overview

Mary Reding briefed the Commission on the events scheduled for September 19-21. The content is reflected in the agenda and briefing material provided to Commissioners.

Outreach and Engagement Events

From approximately 0815-1030 PT, Commissioners Allard, Barney, Davidson, Heck, James, Khazei, Skelly, and Wada visited with staff and program participants of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, CA. An account of this engagement is set forth in a separate memorandum for the record (MFR).

From approximately 1200-1500 PT, Commissioners Allard, Barney, Davidson, Haines, Heck, James, Khazei, Skelly, and Wada visited with students and teachers at East Los Angeles College (ELAC) as well as Marvin Martinez, ELAC President. Commissioners held discussions on issues within the Commission's mandate, and accounts of these discussions are set forth in separate MFRs.

From approximately 1530-1700 PT, Commissioners Allard, Barney, Davidson, Haines, Heck, James, Khazei, Skelly, and Wada met with business and philanthropic leaders at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. An account of this engagement is set forth in a separate MFR.

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Work Group Deliberation

At approximately 1800 PT, Commissioners Davidson, Haines, James, Khazei, and Skelly held a meeting of the Ends, Ways, and Means Work Group. An account of this sessions is set forth in an internal MFR.

September 20, 2018

Outreach and Engagement Events

From approximately 0915-1045 PT, Commissioners Allard, Barney, Davidson, Haines, Heck, James, Khazei, Skelly, and Wada met with program staff and student leaders affiliated with the United Way's Young Civic Leaders Program at the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. An account of this engagement is set forth in a separate MFR.

Work Group Deliberations

From approximately 1230-1400 PT, Commissioners met in Work Groups to deliberate issues concerning the matters within the scope of their respective Work Groups. Accounts of these sessions are set forth in internal MFRs.

Service Fair & Public Meeting

The Commission co-hosted a service job fair at California State University – Los Angeles from approximately 1430-1530 PT. Following the service job fair, the Commission held a public meeting, also at California State University – Los Angeles. The theme of the meeting was “The Next Generation of Service in America.” The public meeting concluded at approximately 1700 PT.

September 21, 2019

Outreach and Engagement Events in San Diego, CA

From approximately 0900-1030 PT, Commissioners Allard, Barney, Davidson, Haines, Heck, James, Khazei, Skelly, and Wada met with MG Matthew Beevers (The Deputy Adjutant General, California Military Department), U.S. Representative Susan Davis, and U.S. Representative Scott Peters in San Diego, CA. An account of this meeting is set forth in a separate MFR.

From approximately 1100-1300 PT, Commissioners Allard, Barney, Davidson, Haines, Heck, James, Khazei, Skelly, and Wada met with staff and residents of Veterans Village of San Diego. An account of this meeting is set forth in a separate MFR.

Thereafter, Commissioners split into two groups. One group, including Commissioners Barney, Haines, James, Skelly, and Wada, met with a group of military servicemembers to discuss diversity in military service aboard the *USS Independence*. Another group, including Commissioners Allard, Davidson, and Heck, met with drill instructors and students from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Accounts of these meetings are set forth in separate MFRs.

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Business Meeting

From approximately 1605-1620 PT, Commissioners Allard, Barney, Davidson, Haines, Heck, James, Skelly, and Wada met to review the events of September 19-21.

Mr. Barney praised the diverse views and experience represented in the engagement and outreach events, which he described as a fitting culmination of a long process of events across the country. He also applauded the management of the September 20 public hearing.

Ms. Haines requested that staff post a frequently asked questions document (FAQ) to the Commission website. She recommended that the FAQ address questions about the legitimacy of the Commission's process, its efforts to hear everyone's perspective, and the ways in which people can submit comments.

Vice Chair Wada endorsed holding the public meeting on a college campus. She described that as a great way to reach a young population. She felt the United Way discussion of September 20 highlighted how critical the young population is for service issues. Noting that the Commission may have difficulty speaking with youth at school, she also recommended exploring opportunities to meet with youth in after-school activities run by organizations such as the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Korea Town.

Ms. James praised the idea to co-host a service job fair although she learned that the fair did not seem to attract many students. That could be addressed by holding a job fair in a different location on a college campus, more proximate to where the students themselves congregate.

Dr. Davidson concurred with Ms. James regarding the job fair. She recommended that any future job fair also include a table on federal civil service, potentially with a representative from the Office of Personnel Management. She also recommended working closely with a college career center to help attract students, better convey that the job fair is to help students to think about careers, and ensure adequate representation from organizations with opportunities for non-veterans.

Mr. Allard complemented the Commission staff on execution of the trip in both Los Angeles and San Diego. Mr. Allard found the sessions with business and philanthropic leaders at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and with public officials in San Diego to be particularly outstanding.

Chairman Heck praised the advance work for this trip, particularly given the intricacies of navigating two cities over three days.

Executive Session

Thereafter, Commissioners convened an executive session outside the presence of staff.

Prepared by Paul Lekas, General Counsel

Adopted by the Commission on October 17, 2018