



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
8.		Favor	Hector Ramirez	
			John Oppenheim	
			Shad Meshad	The tide of Veteran suicide and homelessness, especially during crisis, caused the National Veterans Foundation to expand its Outreach to include non-Veterans. Coordinating and Centralizing the way for all to access social services is long overdue. Jim Zenner has the ability to lead this change. See my uploaded letter. Shad Meshad, National Veterans Foundation
		Item Total	3	
Grand Total			3	



National Veterans Foundation

Toll-free Crisis Management, Referral & Information
For Veterans ~~and~~ Their Families

1-888-777-4443

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

May 17, 2024

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LA County.gov

RE: Agenda items #7 and #8

Dear Board Members,

As President and Founder of the National Veterans Foundation, I have worked with our Veteran population in LA County and across the country since my return from serving as a psychiatric officer in Vietnam. I have advocated for Veterans and their families for over fifty years. I co-authored the Vet Center program while I was with the VA, using the Vet-to-Vet counseling model I developed on the streets of LA. I'd been hired by the VA to find out why Vets were not using the West LA VA hospital. In 1985 I founded the National Veterans Foundation to offer the nation's first toll-free crisis and information hotline. Our Lifeline for Vets is in its 39th year. The NVF currently trains for the VPAN program of peer-to-peer counseling within LA County's Dept. of Mental Health.

The changes outlined in Agenda item #7 have been needed for a long time. Consolidating resources and streamlining processes will save costs and energy, and will move the needle forward on delivering services to our Vets and their families. Agenda item #8 takes the next step to make social services more accessible to all.

Jim Zenner, whom I have known and worked with for years, is the man who can pull all this together. He's a dedicated, respected, experienced and proven leader in the Veterans Services space in LA County. I have every confidence in his ability to succeed in this new vision of how to create and sustain real change.

Sincerely,

Shad Meshad
President and Founder