

**SUBTITLE 51**  
**BALTIMORE CITY VETERANS COMMISSION**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Ordinance 06-362 (effective January 1, 2007) designated this new subtitle to be "Subtitle 49". That number, however, was already spoken for. Hence the placement here, with a different number.

**§ 51-1. "Veteran" defined.**

In this subtitle, "veteran" means a person who:

(1) served in the active military service of:

- (i) the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force;
- (ii) the Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, or Merchant Marines;
- (iii) the Army, Air, or State National Guard; or
- (iv) a reserve component of one of these services; and

(2) was released from that service other than by dishonorable discharge.

*(Ord. 06-362.)*

**§ 51-2. Commission established.**

(a) *In general.*

There is a Baltimore City Veterans Commission.

(b) *Composition.*

(1) The Commission comprises 11 members, who shall be appointed by the Mayor in accordance with Article IV, § 6 of the City Charter.

(2) The 11 members shall include:

- (i) 4 members recommended by the President of the City Council;
- (ii) the Police Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee; and
- (iii) the Fire Chief or the Chief's designee.

(c) *Qualifications.*

(1) Except as provided in this subsection. each appointed member must be a veteran.

(2) Of the 4 members recommended by the City Council President, 1 shall be a member of the City Council, who need not be a veteran.

(3) The Police Commissioner or designee and the Fire Chief or designee need not be veterans.  
(*Ord. 06-362; Ord. 12-002.*)

**§ 51-3. Purpose.**

The Veterans Commission is dedicated to:

(1) providing assistance to veterans who reside in the City, are employed by the City, or are retired City employees, and their families, when in need; and

(2) working with the Mayor and City Council, veterans groups, and others on policies, programs, and concerns related to veterans and their families.

(*Ord. 06-362.*)

**§ 51-4. Terms, compensation, vacancies.**

(a) *Terms of office.*

(1) Commission members serve for a term of 4 years, concurrent with the terms of the Mayor and the City Council.

(2) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(b) *Compensation; expenses.*

The members of the Commission:

(1) serve without compensation; but

(2) are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, as provided in the Ordinance of Estimates.

(c) *Vacancies.*

A member appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term or to succeed a member who is holding over serves only for the remainder of that term.

(*Ord. 06-362; Ord. 16-503.*)

**§ 51-5. Officers; committees.**

(a) *Officers.*

(1) The Mayor shall designate a member of the Commission to serve as its Chair.

(2) Members of the Commission may select any other officers they consider necessary or appropriate.

(b) *Committees.*

The Chair may appoint committees to assist the Commission in carrying out its functions and duties.

(Ord. 06-362.)

**§ 51-6. Meetings; quorum.**

(a) *In general.*

(1) The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair as frequently as required to perform its duties.

(2) A majority of the members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(3) An affirmative vote by the majority of a quorum is needed for any official action.

(b) *Rules of procedure.*

The Commission may adopt rules of procedure to govern its meetings and operations.

(c) *Failure to attend meetings.*

If any member is absent from regularly scheduled meetings more than 3 times in 1 year, not counting absences excused by the Chair:

(1) the member is considered to have resigned; and

(2) the Chair shall request that member's appointing authority to fill the resultant vacancy.

(Ord. 06-362.)

**§ 51-7. Personnel; budget.**

(a) *Executive Director.*

(1) The Commission may appoint a properly qualified person as its Executive Director.

(2) The Executive Director is entitled to a salary, as provided in the Ordinance of Estimates.

(3) The Executive Director shall perform the duties that the Commission prescribes.

(b) *Staff.*

(1) The Executive Director may employ a staff as provided in the Ordinance of Estimates.

(2) Staff members shall be members of the classified service.

(c) *Volunteers.*

The Commission may engage the services of volunteer workers and consultants, without salary, as it considers necessary from time to time.

(d) *Budget.*

The Commission may expend funds as authorized in the Ordinance of Estimates or in any supplemental appropriations.

(Ord. 06-362.)

**§ 51-8. Powers and duties.**

(a) *Assistance to veterans, etc.*

The Commission shall assist veterans who reside in the City, are employed by the City, or are retired City employees, and their families, in matters relating to:

- (1) educational training and retraining services and facilities;
- (2) health, medical, and rehabilitation services and facilities;
- (3) special rights and privileges provided by federal, state, and local laws and regulations;
- (4) employment and reemployment services; and
- (5) other matters of a related or similar nature.

(b) *Information resource.*

The Commission shall serve as a resource for information relating to veterans' issues.

(c) *Community awareness.*

The Commission shall undertake and support activities and programs to:

- (1) increase community awareness of veterans' rights;
- (2) honor and memorialize deceased veterans; and
- (3) honor those currently serving in the armed forces.

(Ord. 06-362.)

**§ 51-9. Agency cooperation.**

At the request of the Commission, all City officials and agencies shall cooperate with the Commission and extend the services and facilities that the Commission requires.

(Ord. 06-362.)