



31 E. Fifth St.
Tempe, AZ 85281

Veterans Commission

The Tempe Veterans Commission advises the Mayor and City Council and assists City departments on veteran programs, policies, and practices designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in Tempe; educates the community on the status of veterans' rights, needs, and contributions to the community; and recommends ways to strengthen existing services for veterans while pursuing the creation of new program and service opportunities. In addition, the Commission develops and promotes benchmarks, as outlined by the Arizona Coalition for Military Families for assisting the City of Tempe and its business community earn recognition as "Arizona Veteran Supportive Employers"; assists in creating and supporting a community connection point to inform, guide, and direct military veterans seeking personal and professional enhancement services that may include education, mentoring, workforce support, and health and wellness; and advises on supportive affordable housing projects for veteran families.

The Tempe Veterans Commission consists of 11 members, appointed for terms of three years, who represent each of the following existing United States Military and Veteran Service Areas:

- **Tempe Veterans Service Organization** (per [Ordinance No. O2024.02](#), which became effective February 5, 2024)
- Veteran Supportive Business or Government Agency
- Pat Tillman Veterans Center at Arizona State University or designee
- Maricopa Community College District or designee
- Veteran supportive service organization
- Veteran health and wellness organization
- Veteran housing advocacy and assistance
- Two At-Large Veteran Members, one of whom resides in the City of Tempe
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The Tempe Veterans Commission conducts regular meetings six times in a calendar year, with no more than two meetings held in any 30-day period. (City Code, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 20)

**Per Ordinance No. O2024.02, scheduled for City Council adoption January 4, 2024, to take effect thirty (30) days after adoption.*

Name	Term Expires	
Garcia, Juan R.	12/31/2024	Veteran Supportive Business
Gonzales, Romaldo	12/31/2024	Tempe Veterans Service Organization
Thomas, Beno	12/31/2024	Pat Tillman Veterans Center at Arizona State University
Gorman, William D.	12/31/2025	Veteran Health and Wellness Organization
James, Melanie A.	12/31/2025	Maricopa Community College District
Kraft, Phillip (Phil)	12/31/2025	Veteran Housing Advocacy and Assistance
Moreno, José	12/31/2025	Veteran Supportive Service Organization
DeNeal, Gwendolyn (Gwen)	12/31/2026	At-Large Member
Lange, Jim	12/31/2026	At-Large Veteran Member (Tempe Resident)
McBride, Aaron	12/31/2026	At-Large Veteran Member
Swearingen, Ryan E.	12/31/2026	At-Large Member (Tempe Resident)

Staff Liaison:

Octavia Harris, Tempe Community Council Executive Director (480) 858-2311

As of 06/17/2024