



February 22, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors Rules Committee,

I am writing to highly recommend James Lee Boatman IV for a seat on the Veteran Affairs Commission. I have had the privilege of working closely with James for the past 2 years and have witnessed firsthand his dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to supporting and advocating for veterans.

James is a veteran himself, having served 6 years in the Coast Guard as a Machinery Technician. His military experience has equipped him with a deep understanding of the challenges and needs faced by veterans transitioning back to civilian life. James has always been a strong advocate for his fellow veterans, tirelessly working to ensure they receive the support and resources they deserve.

Throughout his time working with Swords to Plowshares, James has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, a strong work ethic, and a genuine compassion for others. He is a team player who is always willing to go above and beyond to help those in need. James's ability to connect with veterans on a personal level and his dedication to serving his community make him an ideal candidate for the Veteran Affairs Commission.

I have no doubt that James will bring valuable insights, innovative ideas, and a strong sense of integrity to the commission. His passion for supporting veterans and his unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in their lives make him an invaluable asset to any organization.

I wholeheartedly endorse James for a seat on the Veteran Affairs Commission and am confident that he will excel in this role. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or would like to discuss James's qualifications in more detail.

Thank you for considering James for this important position. I am certain that he will make a significant contribution to the commission and continue to make a difference in the lives of veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clare O'Toole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare O'Toole

Swords to Plowshares
Clinical Director of Non-Residential Services
(415) 470-0406
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February 23, 2024

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Dear Board of Supervisors Rules Committee,

I am writing this letter of recommendation to offer my wholehearted endorsement for James Boatman's candidacy for appointment to the Veterans Affairs Committee for the City and County of San Francisco. Having overseen his professional capabilities with his role, both as an Intensive Case Manager and now Program Manager of our newly opened Veterans Community Center at Swords to Plowshares, I can attest to his exceptional skills, dedication and unique qualifications that will make him an ideal candidate as a commissioner.

James' current role at Swords' gives him daily insight into the needs and concerns of veterans experiencing homelessness and those who are formerly homeless in our community, many of whom are people with disabilities and older adults. James' ability to engage with veterans coming into the VCC around what their needs are and how Swords can help to fill those gaps is invaluable. Our motto at Swords is "Vets helping Vets" and James exemplifies this on a day-to-day basis. His additional experience as an Intensive Case Manager allowed him to directly gain knowledge about veterans who needed assistance to develop independent living skills. This experience allowed him to understand the intricacies of veteran care and give a voice to those who may not have the ability to voice their concerns and needs in a way that could impact the very systems of care designed to support veterans here in San Francisco, which go beyond the Veterans Health Administration. We believe this skillset will be instrumental as a commissioner.

Moreover, James also has experience supporting veterans within the educational sector. One of his previous roles was at the Veterans Resource Lounge at City College of San Francisco, which allowed him to bridge the gap between veterans and educational resources ensuring that there were support structures that allowed veterans to receive the support needed to excel academically. This unique perspective positions James as a valuable asset to the commission, especially considering the diverse needs of veterans in San Francisco.

In addition to his professional experience, James served 6 years in the Coast Guard, demonstrating his commitment to serving our country. His military background provides him with firsthand knowledge of the challenges veterans face during their transition to civilian life, making him an advocate who can relate to and represent the interests of veterans effectively.

I am confident that James will bring a wealth of experience, dedication, and passion to the commission seat for veterans in San Francisco. James's ability to address the multifaceted needs of veterans, coupled with his unique perspective from both the nonprofit sector and military experience, will undoubtedly contribute significantly to the commission's objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Blecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Blecker, Executive Director
U.S. Army Veteran, 1967-1970

Dan Meals
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dmeals@mac.com

February 25, 2024

Members: Hillary Ronen, Shamann Walton, Ansha Safai
City Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 250
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Rules Committee Supervisors,

I appreciate you taking the time to review my recommendation and seriously consider Jenny Perez for the Veteran Affairs Commission. Starting in 2015, I had the privilege of working with Jenny as co-lead for MUFG Union Bank's enterprise resource network's diversity initiatives; Jenny led the Veterans group and I led the LGBTQ+ group. Over the years, we collectively hosted educational and networking events, expanded our footprints and developed forward strategies and programs for the Bank's future use. These new standards ultimately became the foundation for the Bank's diversity initiatives nationally and are still used today.

It is without question that banking and finance industries are deeply rooted within our communities and are truly relationship based. Knowing this, Jenny connected Veteran non-profits with the Bank's Talent Acquisition team to develop the first-ever service member recruitment channel. This proved to be so powerful that the Talent team hired a full time veteran recruiter to oversee the cross-line-of-business hiring initiative nationally.

In addition to connecting and ultimately placing Veterans into the Bank, Jenny selflessly worked to create awareness, training opportunities and on-the-job guides for both Veterans and those with close interaction. She received external training to ensure she was bringing best practices to all colleagues. Without her partnership and attention to detail, these programs would not have lifted out of infancy. Jenny is a dedicated partner who is always willing to show up - physically or otherwise - for those whom she's just met or has known for a while. In the years that I have known Jenny, I can only point to win's surrounding her. Of course she has had set backs but nothing she has not pushed through in order to count the win.

Outside of work, Jenny and I quickly became close friends! Over the years, we have experienced both highs and lows and have remained grounded through our commitment to ensuring underrepresented groups receive adequate spotlight and needed resources.

It is without question that Jenny will succeed in this capacity and ensure the Commission's strategic agenda continue to count wins. Even if faced with adversity, I have the utmost confidence that Jenny and her team will push through with creative solutions and achieve a benefiting outcome!

Regards,

Dan Meals

Rodrigo Leanos
ssgrigo1@gmail.com
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February 26, 2024

San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Support of Mr. Prince Jordan for the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my wholehearted endorsement of Mr. Prince Jordan for any vacant seat on the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission. As a mentor, colleague, and California Army National Guard Veteran with over 20 years of military service, I have had the privilege of closely working with Mr. Jordan at the Oakland Military Institute College Preparatory Academy under the California Military Department Youth and Community Programs Task Force Torch.

Throughout the last 3.5 years, I have witnessed Mr. Jordan's unwavering commitment to advocating for veterans' rights, policies, legislations, and benefits, even outside of his regular job, during his free time away from work. His dedication to the cause of veterans' rights is truly commendable. Mr. Jordan has actively collaborated with state, local, and federally elected politicians, showcasing his ability to work effectively alongside individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. His efforts have been instrumental in advancing the interests of veterans, both within the San Francisco community and on a broader scale.

It is worth noting that Mr. Jordan currently serves as a Local Board Member for the State of California for the United States Selective Service Board, a position to which he was appointed by President Joseph R. Biden in 2023. Additionally, he fulfills the role of Operations and Training NCO for the California Military Department's Youth and Community Programs Task Force Torch. These positions highlight his extensive experience and expertise in the field of military affairs, further solidifying his qualifications for a seat on the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission.

Mr. Jordan's track record of collaboration, advocacy, and dedication to improving the lives of veterans is unparalleled. Over the past four years, he has worked tirelessly alongside the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and state and federal elected officials to champion legislation that directly benefits veterans. Through his efforts, initiatives such as free access to paid parks for veterans with mental health challenges, below-market-rate housing, and military reservist pay have been successfully implemented. Furthermore, Mr. Jordan's vision extends beyond these accomplishments, as he continues to work towards future legislations aimed at further

enhancing the lives of veterans in the city and county of San Francisco, as well as throughout the state of California.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Prince Jordan for any vacant seat on the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission. His extensive experience, dedication, and collaborative approach make him an ideal candidate for this important role. I have had the privilege of witnessing his unwavering commitment to the cause of veterans' rights, and I am confident that he will continue to be a valuable asset in advocating for the well-being and interests of veterans in our community.

Thank you for considering my endorsement of Mr. Prince Jordan. I trust that you will recognize his exceptional qualifications and contributions to the veteran community. Should you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ssgrigo1@gmail.com or (408) 677-9524.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rodrigo Leanos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rodrigo Leanos
Sergeant First Class (Ret)
California Army National Guard