

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

September 4, 2025,

MINUTES

6:15 PM

- **CALL TO ORDER**

The workshop was called to order by **Chair Beck** at 6:20 PM in the Commission Chambers of City Hall located at 1 N. Bluford Avenue, Ocoee.

Chair Beck led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of personal reflection. **Chair Beck** confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Present: Chair Beck, Vice-Chair Maxwell, Members Henderson, Mellen, and Singh

Also Present: Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines and Recording Clerk Torres

Speakers: Kavita Sawh and Michael Kepner

Workshop – From Service to Community

The session focused on the various challenges veterans face when transitioning back to civilian life, particularly in higher education and the workforce. It highlighted the emotional and mental health struggles many veterans experience, including PTSD and the unpredictable nature of triggers. Barriers to educational success were discussed, such as navigating age differences, managing time independently, and adjusting from a highly structured military environment to student life. Emphasis was placed on the importance of community support through empathy and treating veterans with dignity rather than pity. Practical solutions like veteran success workshops and onboarding programs were also presented to help build essential executive functioning skills and prepare veterans for successful integration into civilian careers.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:



Recording Clerk



Chairperson