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From: William M. Paparian, Esq/ < > 1>
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Subject: Agenda item 2, March 7 Special Joint PUSD Meeting

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This past Veterans Day program prominently featured the Blair High School JROTC Honor Guard and Cadets. These young people are the pride of our community and among their ranks are the future leaders of this City. First Sergeant Ben Hicks- Senior Army Instructor of the Blair High School Army JROTC Program
Sergeant First Class Betsy Cuevas- Army Instructor of the Blair High School Army JROTC Program are to be commended for the tremendous work they do in molding the character of these JROTC Cadets.

That's why it was so profoundly disappointing to me to see no mention made of the Blair HS JROTC program in the slide deck attached to Agenda Item # 2.

On November 11, 2020, I made the following proposal to then Mayor-elect Victor Gordo:

"Many cities have a Military and Veterans Advisory Commission. Pasadena should consider establishing one. There are several reasons that we should consider doing this. First and foremost we have a local Marine Infantry Battalion stationed here. There are two Veteran service organization in Pasadena, the American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America. And of course we have an active contingent of student veterans at Pasadena City College.

For the past several years under the leadership of Bill Thomson we have done an annual Veterans Day event on an ad hoc basis. But the need for a formal advisory commission exists beyond an annual event every November 11th. There's also Memorial Day. There's our nuclear powered submarine the USS Pasadena. There was the homecoming event for the return from deployment of our Pasadena Marines last year. There's the ROTC cadets at Blair High School The list goes on."

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For unexplained and unexplainable reasons Mayor Gordo never responded to this proposal despite my follow up efforts.

The establishment of the Pasadena Military and Veterans Advisory Commission would be a unique opportunity for collaboration the Pasadena City Council and the PUSD Board in support of the Blair HS JROTC program.

Very Respectfully,

Former Mayor William Paparian

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