

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX



COMMUNITY BOARD 7

HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Interim Chair	Bernard Wright
Meeting Date:	February 19, 2025
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Tracey Towers
	20 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx, NY 10468
	(Building 20, Community Room A)
Members	🖌 Bernard Wright 🖌 Jean Hill
In Attendance:	✓ Tobie Buford
Minutes done by:	Bernard Wright

Minutes:

- I. Bernard Wright read the Code of Conduct for the meeting.
- II. Bernard Wright took attendance- Quorum met
- III. Review of Previous Minutes -

A. October 2024 minutes were reviewed and approved.

IV. Follow-up from Previous Month-

A. The Jeffrey Hunter Award and the 100th celebration for the Bronx Victory Memorial statue were mentioned. The date for the 100th memorial celebration is TBA.

V. New Business

A. Veteran Advocacy Project Presentation - Coco Culhane, Esq.

- **1.** The new federal administration is closing the Brooklyn and Manhattan V.A. hospitals with plans to privatize them.
- **2.** Q&A followed after the presentation between board members and guests.

B. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) - Joe Bello



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1. Employees from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) were allowed to enter the Bronx VA Hospital and given an office to work in. Several employees were fired, an announcement that caused a lot of confusion. The conversation is ongoing, and several congress members have been contacted, but there has been no reply.

C. Veterans Card: ID Facility Locations

1. Bernard spoke about veterans card IDs being available for those who are service-connected and have gotten hurt while on active duty.

D. Vetrepreneur Franchise Academy: Information Session

- Bernard shared an upcoming virtual job fair with the members on February 27, 2025. He provided details for those interested in attending or sharing the opportunity. Additional Details are below:
 - a) Veteran & Military Spouse Virtual Job Fair Thursday, February 27, 2025, from 12 pm to 2 pm For additional information, visit the Veteran and Military Spouse Talent Engagement Program (VMSTEP)'s website page-<u>https://bit.ly/3Qzq44I</u>.
- VI. Next Meeting Date: March 19, 2025
- VII. Discussion on Next Agenda TBA
- VIII. Adjournment Jean Hill motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Tobie Buford seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.