

# 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:	March 19, 2025
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	<a href="#">Kittay Senior Houses</a> 2550 Webb Ave Bronx, NY 10468
Members In Attendance:	__ Bernard Wright    ✓ Jean Hill    ✓ Tobie Buford
Minutes done by:	Bernard Wright

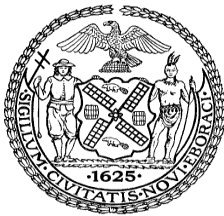
### Minutes:

- I. Jean Hill read the Code of Conduct for the meeting.
- II. Jean Hill took attendance; the quorum was met.
- III. Review of Previous Minutes
  - A. One edit was suggested by Samuel Cottes, Outreach Coordinator at James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, who stated that the Brooklyn and Manhattan V.A. Hospitals are not closing. It may happen in the future.
  - B. Another edit was suggested by Samuel Cottes, Outreach Coordinator at James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, who stated three employees were terminated from employment at James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Two have since returned, and the third may return with retro pay.
  - C. Tobie Buford motioned to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Jean Hill. The minutes were approved with edits to Items A1 and B1.
- IV. New Business
  - A. Presentation from Ms. Yoselin Brice, Assistant Department Service Office, Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York:
    1. A veteran Service Officer (VSO) is a professionally trained advocate accredited by the Veterans Administration to assist veterans in obtaining their earned benefits.

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:

229-A EAST 204TH STREET ♦ BRONX, NY 10458 ♦ PHONE: (718) 933-5650

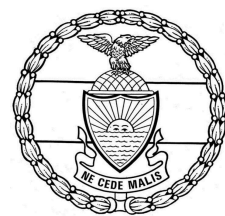
E-MAIL: [KCABRERACARRERA@CB.NYC.GOV](mailto:KCABRERACARRERA@CB.NYC.GOV) ♦ WEBSITE: [NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7](http://NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7)



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- a) VSO can legally represent veterans and their families before the VA.
- b) VSOs have the training and expertise to help veterans and their families navigate the VA's complex benefit programs.
- c) For free, VSOs can access VA records and application systems to give timely, accurate advice.
- d) VSO files original or reopened compensation and/or pension claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs and completes the required VA forms on behalf of veterans and their families.
- e) VSOs follow up on the status of claims with the VA Regional office.
- f) VSOs review VA rating decisions for accuracy and address any issues.
- g) VSOs assist veterans or surviving spouses prepare appeals with the local VA regional office or the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.
- h) VSOs advise veterans regarding all federal, state, and local veteran benefits.

#### **2. For more information, contact Ms. Yoselin Brice**

- a) Work Address: 245 West Houston Street, NY, NY 10014
- b) Office: 212-807-3046
- c) Email: [yoselin.brice@va.gov](mailto:yoselin.brice@va.gov)
- d) VA Accreditation #58066

#### **V. Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2025**

#### **VI. Discussion on the Next Agenda**

##### **A. Flagging of Veterans Graves at Woodlawn Cemetery**

##### **B. Flagging Event at Bronx Victory Memorial**

##### **C. Jeffrey Hunter Award Nomination Form**

#### **VII. Adjournment**

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