



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chair:	Chad Royer
Meeting Date:	Wednesday, February 17th, 2021
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Members: (Check Those In Attendance)	✓ Chad Royer __ Emmanuel Asamoah ✓ Hugo Gonzalez ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Jeffery Hunter ✓ Helene Redd
Minutes done by:	Chad Royer

Minutes:

- I) Introductions**
- II) Review of previous minutes (If applicable)**
- III) Follow-up from previous month (If applicable)**
- IV) Request from Veterans Voice Newsletter**
 - a) A representative from Veterans Voice Newsletter was not able to attend the February meeting due to an unforeseen circumstance.
- V) Outreach**
 - a) The committee discussed doing another virtual roundtable event centered around the issue with health and mental health of our veterans. The event will take place in either April or May of 2021.
 - b) The committee received a request from the Education Committee to be a part of a memorial event at Woodlawn Cemetery. The memorial event would include youth groups from the district taking part in a flag ceremony. The committee supports the idea. The Woodlawn Cemetery will be contacted to get further information on availability, maximum capacity, and COVID standards that would be necessary to follow.
- VI) New Business**
 - a) The Veterans Exemption Program



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- i) **The Veterans Exemption Program is similar to the STAR Program (School Tax Relief Check) and it applies to applicants who live in 1/2/3 family homes and are shareholders of co-ops and condos. Applicants apply for this benefit from the New York State Department of Finance. One qualified person is sufficient to receive the Veterans Exemption on the property.**
 - ii) **Anyone who served during designated periods of conflict and use their home as a primary residence, are un-remarried surviving spouses, or are Gold Star parents (who lost a child during active duty) can qualify. There is no income requirement, but service time has to be qualified for eligibility. Marriage certificates, DD-214 or a form of discharge may be needed along with application.**
 - iii) **Recipients can receive 15% of property's assessed value (up to \$2800 off property taxes if eligible for combat exemption), and additional 10% of property's assessed value if disabled due to service-connected activity (up to \$1900 off property taxes).**
 - iv) **Deadline to apply for the calendar year is March 15, and benefits go in effect July 1. There is no renewal period, but applicants will need to be able to provide date of birth, social security number of each owner, address, property's block and lot, any additional property, and any additional property in a trust or a life estate.**
 - v) **The number to call for more information is 518-457-2036.**
- b) Presentation from Raul Gonzalez, Veterans Affairs Liaison of Union Community Health Center**
- i) **The Union Community Health Center is one of the largest Federally qualified health centers in New York and has been in**



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existence since 1909. Their concentration is primary and urgent care.

ii) There are six locations:

- 260 East 188th Street, Bronx NY 10458 (main location)
- 2021 Grand Concourse, Bronx NY 10453
- 470 East Fordham Road, Bronx NY 10458
- 4487 Third Avenue, Bronx NY 10457 (physical therapy unit)
- 2016 Bronxdale Avenue, Suite 301, Bronx NY 10462
- 2101 Quarry Road, Bronx NY 10457 (dental unit)

iii) UCHC has a mobile medical unit and will release a new mobile dental unit this summer.

iv) The main services provided are based on what most veterans need, and they are urgent care, audiology, physical therapy, and dental care. UCHC is also one of New York City's assigned vaccination centers according to the Department of Health

v) Raul Gonzalez cited the Mission Act of 2018, where under this act, veterans will have more ways to access healthcare. This allows community care providers like UCHC to provide services that would otherwise take longer through the VA system and emergency rooms. UCHC will work with veterans and family members of veterans.

vi) Raul Gonzalez is the veterans' liaison and he assists veterans with referrals and navigation of the system for things like SNAP, housing, and legal services so that veterans can achieve a good quality of life. Hours of operation at main site is Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and urgent care hours are Monday through Friday from 3:00 pm to 9:00



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pm and weekends from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Contact
information is 718-618-8152 and rgonzalez2@uchcbronx.org

- VII) Next meeting date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021
- VIII) Discussion on next agenda
- IX) Adjournment