

THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX



COMMUNITY BOARD 7

HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chair:	Chad Y. Royer	
Meeting Date:	November 16, 2022	
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm	
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference	
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/zhHFirwWcjE	
Members	✓ Chad Royer ✓ Emmanuel Asamoah ✓ Hugo Gonzalez	
In Attendance:		
	✓ Jean Hill ✓ Helene Redd	
Minutes done by:	Chad Y. Royer	

Minutes:

I) Introduction

II) Review Of Previous Minutes

III) Follow-Ups

1) VA Updates

a) As of this meeting, there was no previous business to bring forth.

IV) New Business

1) Union Community Health Center Mobile Health Clinic Event: November 16-18

a) Raul Gonzalez of UCHC mentioned that there is an event to provide free services to Veterans through their mobile vans. Services include free hearing screenings, mental health screenings, and dental screenings.b) One of the goals of UCHC is to establish the areas where the mobile vans can go in the neighborhoods where Veterans congregate so that more Veterans can take advantage of the services.

c) Raul Gonzalez asked the committee for assistance in finding places where Veterans can be well served by the mobile vans. This will provide an opportunity for the mobile vans to make regularly scheduled visits.
d) UCHC has a social media presence on platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, but it has been found that many Veterans are unable



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to access such social media platforms. UCHC is looking to provide tablets and communication devices for older Veterans so they can access telemedicine.

2) Bronx Victory Memorial Event

a) The Bronx Victory Memorial flagging event is scheduled for Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 11:00 am at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue. The event is open to the public.

b) The memorial was built in remembrance of the local Veterans of the neighborhood who had lost their lives and served in World War I. For a while, there has not been any kind of celebratory opportunities to commemorate their memory. The flyer for the event was shared with everyone at the meeting.

c) The flagging of the monument will be an annual event hosted by the Veterans Committee during the Veterans Day and Memorial Day holidays. The Veterans Committee aims to use these events as an opportunity to provide acknowledgement to the Veterans community, send a message to the community that we need to do more to promote better service delivery, and remind our leaders and constituents to get more involved in advocacy.

3) Advocacy For Women Veterans

a) Army Veteran LaTanga Blair was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency.

4) Worldwide Veterans and Family Services

a) Marisa Estrella was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

5) Maintenance of Bronx VA Outer Sidewalks

a) A few residents had commented about the condition of the sidewalk surrounding the VA Hospital on the Sedgwick Avenue side and West Kingsbridge Avenue side. The sidewalks have dog poop, garbage, broken glass, used cigarettes and loose dirt. There is also a portion of the fence that is broken and in need of repair. Members of the VA were contact for guidance on how to address the matters



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b) The VA is working on repairing the broken portion of the gate. The gates are made of aluminum and they are waiting for the right resources to continue with the repair. The VA is also considering beautification options.c) A portion of the sidewalk surrounding the VA is believed to be Federal property. The committee hopes to get further guidance on what is considered Federal property from the VA police.

V) Other Business

1) Information on imposter scams targeting Veterans and servicemembers was shared at the meeting. Scammers continue their efforts targeting folks while we honor our Veterans. One of the scams includes tricking a Veteran, current service members or their family members into sharing sensitive personal and financial information. The scam involves imposters pretending to be representatives of Navy Federal Credit Union, USAA Bank and other related banks who ask for social security information, passwords, bank account information and claim that there is fraudulent activity on your account that needs to be handled immediately. Folks are reminded not to give out information to anyone who randomly calls you unexpectedly.

- More information can be found here: <u>https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2022/11/imposter-scams-</u> <u>targeting-veterans-and-servicemembers?utm_source=govdelivery</u>
- You can report any acts or fraud or suspicious activity at ReportFraud.ftc.gov and MilitaryConsumer.gov

VI) Adjournment

1) The next meeting for the Veterans Committee will be in January 2023.

2) Motion to adjourn meeting by Emmanuel Asamoah, seconded by Chad Y Royer.