



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



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT BARBARA STRONCZER, ACTING CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT
 MANAGER

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chair:	Chad Y. Royer
Meeting Date:	September 21, 2022
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	The Jewish Home-Kittay Senior Apartments <u>2550 Webb Ave, The Bronx, NY 10468</u>
Members In Attendance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chad Royer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emmanuel Asamoah <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hugo Gonzalez <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Hill <input type="checkbox"/> Helene Redd
Minutes done by:	Chad Y. Royer

Minutes:

- I. Introduction
- II. Review Of Previous Minutes
- III. Old Business
 - A. VA Updates
 - 1. Ronald Downs, Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator for Suicide Prevention at Bronx VA, introduced himself to the members in attendance and shared upcoming events in the community. He is looking to partner up with other community partners on the subject of suicide and Veteran suicide prevention.
 - 2. The Bronx VA has a volunteer program that is about to open up. If anyone is interested in doing Veterans-related volunteer work with the Bronx VA, please reach out to Shawn Kingston at the Bronx VA, or reach out to the Bronx Community Board 7's Veterans Committee.
- IV. New Business
 - A. New Veterans Crisis Hotline Number (988)



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1. A new number was developed a few months ago so that Veterans nationwide can have an easier way to reach out for help. The number is 988, option 1. The old number still works, but it will eventually be phased out. The old number is 1-800-273-8255, option 1, and the text option is 838255.

B. Veterans Victory Memorial

1. The memorial is located at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue. Recently, a few community members expressed concerns over the lack of maintenance and upkeep, including flagging and the planting of flowers.
2. The community members who mentioned this as a concern were not present at this current meeting, and no one else who was present had any additional information to provide. The committee agreed that this matter should be briefly discussed with the Parks committee to inquire as to what parameters the Parks department may have.

C. 2024 Statement of Community District Needs and Budget Requests

1. The committee was asked if there were any capital and expense budget requests they would like to bring forth. The two topics for consideration were a funding request for Veterans to receive care if they were victims of accidents from burn pits and a request for increase in allotment of housing units in newly-constructed buildings for Veterans who are either homeless or are facing challenges with the current housing situation.

V. Other Business

- A. The proposal for the closures of select VA Hospitals that was presented a few months ago by the Federal government has been withdrawn.

THIS MEETING'S MINUTES ARE 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: IBRAVO@CB.NYC.GOV ♦ WEBSITE: WWW.NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7



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- B. Shenaz Kapasi and Susan Ramsundarsingh are community partners who represent Project-Welcome Home Troops and are collaborating with Sky Schools in partnership with public schools in the Bronx. Project-Welcome Home Troops provide transformational courses and workshops where Veterans can sign up for free. One of the goals is to assist Veterans who are suffering with PTSD symptoms. Classes are held online at <https://projectwelcomehometroops.org>. Shenaz Kapasi can be reached at 1-718-314-1239 for more details.
- C. Residents of Kittay House are concerned over the unsafe conditions stemming from the increasing numbers of motorcycles and motorized bikes on the sidewalks and the poor physical condition of the Webb Avenue and Kingsbridge Road intersection. Many of the residents of Kittay House are senior citizens and Veterans.

VI. Adjournment

- A. The next meeting for the Veterans Committee has not been scheduled yet.
- B. Motion to adjourn meeting by Emmanuel Asamoah, seconded by Jean Hill.