



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



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

VACANT, DISTRICT MANAGER

**VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Chad Y. Royer</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>January 18, 2023</b>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b>Via Zoom Video/Teleconference</b>
<b>Meeting Recording:</b>	<a href="https://youtu.be/V6huf34wQRI">https://youtu.be/V6huf34wQRI</a>
<b>Members In Attendance:</b>	<b>✓ Chad Royer   ✓ Emmanuel Asamoah   ✓ Hugo Gonzalez</b> <b>✓ Jean Hill   ✓ Helene Redd</b>
<b>Minutes done by:</b>	<b>Chad Y. Royer</b>

**Minutes:**

I) Introduction

II) Review Of Previous Minutes

III) Follow-Ups

- 1) Fordham Village Veterans Residence at 355 East 194th Street
  - a) At the time of the meeting, it had been reported that the elevator was not working for as long as a week. The building has one elevator with five floors and many of the Veterans who reside in the building have physical disabilities.
  - b) One of the residents mentioned that there was a flood that originated from some apartments and this affected the elevator.
  - c) A few suggestions had been made to reach out to elected officials, reach out to the Community Board Office, start a petition, and the Department of Buildings.

2) VA

- a) Ronald Downs of the VA and Raul Gonzalez of UCHC shared with the committee that the VA is partnering with community stakeholders on Suicide Prevention Coalition among Veterans. A few are Bronx

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

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



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Ready To Assist Veterans Everywhere (BRAVE), a Black Indigenous People Of Color coalition (BIPOC), a Health and Hospitals art-based healing and college students coalition, and the main ideas stem from identifying Veterans who are at risk and promote connectedness so that Veterans know that they are not alone.

#### IV) New Business

##### 1) Manhattan College Veterans Program: Tiana Sloan, Veterans Success Program Director

a) Manhattan College, located in the Bronx, has a Veterans program that supports Veterans through and beyond college. They have been supporting Veterans since the Civil War and has continued the program throughout the Vietnam era.

b) The Veterans Success Center is a place where Veterans can gather, receive resources and get tutoring. One of the programs, Veterans At Ease, involves religious class study and a stress reduction retreat, the latter which shows different ways to control the body's physical reactions to control stress and to restore that band of togetherness that they had while serving in the military.

c) Chris Noberto is the president of their student veterans organization, and some of the programs they have include weekly open table gatherings where students can freely speak around their peers, career services where student veterans can work on their resumes and access internships with the goal of employment after graduation. They also do volunteer outreach events like the cleanup of Memorial Grove, events with Toys for Tots, and events with the Miracle League for a safe Halloween for special needs children. They also host academic panels where the student Veterans present matters to our civilian communities. Average age of student Veterans is 31 years old and the average GPA is 3.2.

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d) Manhattan College offers the Yellow Ribbon Program where it covers the difference of the tuition cost for student Veterans. They also help with other inquiries on the G.I. Bill.

e) Tiana Sloan can be reached at [tiana.sloan@manhattan.edu](mailto:tiana.sloan@manhattan.edu)

2) Benefits From New York State Division of Veterans Services: Daniel Germain, Veterans Benefits Advisor

a) Any Veteran now can get mental health treatment from the VA, and as long as they can be identified as a Veteran, the VA will pay for it. One of the biggest reasons why suicide rates are high is because Veterans are not getting the mental health treatment they need.

b) A few things mentioned:

There is a program called Vet Checks where there is a database of Veterans of about 40,000 Veterans.

You do not have to have served in combat to qualify as a Veteran for New York State.

Veterans do not have to pay fees to take civil service exams for employment

Veterans can get additional tax exemptions on their property taxes

c) Daniel Germain can be reached at [daniel.germain@veterans.ny.gov](mailto:daniel.germain@veterans.ny.gov)

Further information on the presentation will be shared with the Community Board Office.

3) February Fair At The VA

a) At the time of the meeting, no information was available as to when the fair at the VA will take place



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#### 4) Maintenance of Bronx VA Outer Sidewalks

a) There have been many complaints of dog remains and garbage dumping along the sidewalks surrounding the VA on the Sedgwick Avenue side. The outer sidewalks are under the jurisdiction of the City of New York as opposed to the federal government. More information will be shared in the future on best practices in reporting incidents.

#### 5) Events in April and May

a) The committee will consider dates in May for the flagging events at the Woodlawn Cemetery and Bronx Victory Memorial.

b) A suggestion for an event where the committee can invite Veterans from the area to do a roundtable or a meet and speak so that information can be shared in a relaxed party-like atmosphere. Areas of consideration could include St. James Park, Poe Park or Monroe College, and the event could be targeted to the community-at-large, but also include reaching out to families of Veterans. The committee will discuss the possibilities offline and present further at the February meeting.

#### VI) Adjournment

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

2) Motion to adjourn meeting by Hugo Gonzalez, seconded by Jean Hill.