



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

Chair:	Chad Y. Royer
Meeting Date:	October 18, 2023
Meeting Time:	6:30PM
Meeting Location:	Kittay Houses, 2550 Webb Avenue Bronx NY 10468
Members In Attendance:	✓ Chad Royer _ Emmanuel Asamoah ✓ Bernard Wright _ Jean Hill ✓ Hugo Gonzalez ✓ Tobie Buford
Minutes done by:	Chad Y. Royer

Minutes:

I. Introduction

A. Introductions were done

II. Review Of Previous Minutes

A. Minutes were reviewed

III. Follow Up

A. VA Outreach Coordinator Samuel Coates mentioned that there will be a Veterans parade coming up, and more details on time, transportation and location will come as soon as possible. On Friday, October 20, 2023, there will be a free phone giveaway via the Affordable Connectivity Program, where any Veteran who is registered with the VA and has his/her address correct in accordance to their Veterans Benefits will get a free (Samsung) phone that can be used for 5 years. Qualified Veterans could also get a tablet by paying a one-time \$20 activation fee, and it comes with free Wi-Fi. Samuel Coates can be located at Room 1B07 on the first floor.

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

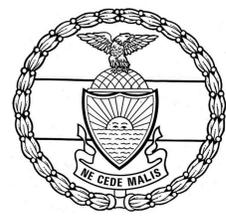
E-MAIL: KCABRERACARRERA@CB.NYC.GOV ♦ WEBSITE: NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7



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

B. Residents from Kingsbridge Terrace attended the meeting. Resident Derwyn Wilson spoke to the public and cited his grievances with the building and the management (Jericho Projects). Information will be forwarded over to the board office and local City Council office in an attempt to provide further assistance. Those stated issues include the following: there is a stigma of mental health issues attached the building where every resident is assumed to have mental health issues; there was a leak from upstairs that resulted in \$3300 in damages of personal property, yet the management did not properly reimburse Mr. Wilson of all his damages despite being told that it would have been taken care of and after letting several months pass without a follow up; the director of the building has been cited as having a rude attitude with him and other residents, and bullying and harassing Mr. Wilson; the management does not engage in community activities where Veteran residents can do outdoor events; the management did not properly handle matters involving mold in the apartment and calls/complaints being made to the police on Mr. Wilson without merit; there were attempts made to have Mr. Wilson evicted and removed from the residence without proper cause

IV. New Business

A. Overview of COMPACT ACT

1. On October 25th at 10:00 AM, the New York/New Jersey VA Healthcare Network leadership will have a virtual session where information on free emergency suicide care for Veterans and its impacts on Veteran patients, staff, and the facility
2. The COMPACT ACT is designed for addressing suicide mental health, where any Veteran, regardless of discharge status, can go to



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

any hospital and receive service only for suicide. If a Veteran is at an emergency room, urgent care or similar facility for the purpose of dealing with mental health issues, the VA will take care of the costs as long as he/she discloses that he/she is a Veteran.

B. Annual Bronx Victory Memorial Flagging Event

1. Bronx Community Board 7's Veterans Committee will host the event on November 18, 2023 at 11:00am at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue. All are welcome to attend. Flyers have been distributed at the meeting and through the office.

C. Veterans Outreach Community Event at Union Community Health Center (UCHC)

1. Union's Veteran Healthcare Liaison Raul Gonzalez mentioned that UCHC is a community care network provider who is contracted with the VA to provide services to Veterans. On Monday, November 13, 2023 at 1:00pm, there will be free dental screenings, physical therapy screenings, audio screenings, and behavioral health screenings to any Veterans who comes in. The screenings can take place from 2:00pm to 5:00pm and there is a plan to get some pantry bags for Veterans who attend. Flyers were distributed at the meeting.

D. FY2024 Capital & Expense Requests and Responses

1. Two requests were submitted to the office for consideration of the budget register.
 - a) Funding of the City Council Veterans Initiative with \$3.2 million so that Veteran-based organizations will have funding for operations.



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

- b) Funding of the Bronx Historical Society to provide additional maintenance, rat-mitigation and hiring of an additional staff position.

E. Community Conversation Around Advocacy of Veterans

1. The committee continued the conversation from last season where ideas for legislative recommendations were entertained. The committee spoke on the idea of a separate or dedicated portal for Veterans to apply for housing. Housing Connect is the current vehicle being used to connect people to new apartment listings and it was suggested to consider prioritizing the Veteran question in the application process in the portal. Another recommendation was providing extra points for applicants who qualify for specific Veterans categories.
2. The committee will plan on finalizing the motion of the recommendation with the wording for the next upcoming meeting

V. Adjournment

- A. The next meeting for the Veterans Committee will be in November 2023, but the date has not been determined.
- B. Motion to adjourn meeting by Tobie Buford, seconded by Chad Royer.