



**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:	May 17, 2023
Meeting Time:	6:30PM
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/vIIY09nFFF0
Members In Attendance:	✓ Chad Royer ✓ Emmanuel Asamoah ✓ Hugo Gonzalez ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Tobie Buford
Minutes done by:	Chad Y. Royer

Minutes:

I) Introduction

II) Review Of Previous Minutes

III) Follow-Ups

- a) No follow-ups to report.

IV) New Business

1) Presentation on Organ Donation: Ms. Iiana Almanzar, Community/Government Affairs Liaison at LiveOnNY

- a) LiveOnNY covers 70% of New York State in terms of organ donation. The mission is to save lives, provide comfort, and strengthen legacies through organized tissue donation and LiveONNY works closely with local hospitals and transplant centers.
- b) One person can save up to 8 lives and help restore the tissues of up to 75 lives. Currently there are over 9000 individuals in New York State in need of organized tissue donation (this only counts individuals with health insurance and on a waiting list).
- c) The most needed organ in the Bronx and statewide is the kidney. Only 45% of New Yorkers are registered organ donors.

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



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- d) Common conditions that will lead to the need of organ donation are diabetes, hypertension, untreated hepatitis, and congestive heart failure.
- e) A person must get a referral from his/her doctor to a transplant center, and they collect all medical history. Person must be a good candidate, meaning that he/she will follow instructions, take medications as described and not miss appointments, in order to get on the list.
- f) Blood type, body mass, rank on the National Transplant waiting list and proximity between donor and recipient are factors that determine a match between donor and recipient.
- g) Iliana Almanzar is looking to reach out to groups where she can provide presentations, like senior centers, tenant associations and Veterans groups.
- h) For more information, contact Ms. Almanzar at almanzar@liveonny.org

2) **Recent City Council Executive Budget Hearing On Veterans Affairs**

- a) The New York City Council Executive Budget Hearing on the Committee of Veterans took place on May 8, 2023 at a scheduled time of 2:30 PM. Several Veteran community partners, Veteran vendors and Veteran advocates who were made aware of the meeting were not satisfied with the content of the hearing and were not able to provide comments or questions at the hearing. They also feel that the Veterans Agenda has not been prioritized on a City Council level.
- b) Former citywide Veterans director at the City Council Joe Bello attended the meeting and mentioned that there was no previous meeting scheduled for Veterans in March. A letter sponsored by over 20 Veteran Service Organizations was written to the Speaker of the Council requesting that a meeting be held.
- c) A follow up meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 24 where the Department of Veteran Services will address comments and questions. However, there is a question as to how the format will be since that meeting on May 24 would be open to questions of all types that may not be specific to Veterans Services.



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d) The Council Chair of the Veterans Committee entertained the idea of allocating a grant to each council member of about \$25,000 to \$50,000, but some council members expressed concern over identifying where the Veterans in the communities are.

e) The Veterans Committee (CB7) agreed to come up with ideas for a legislative agenda or a legislative priorities list from members of the Veterans Community. District Manager Karla Cabrera-Carrera will consult with the Veterans Committee members (CB7) on ways to put together this information in the Fall of 2023 since there will be no meeting in June of 2023.

3) Woodlawn Cemetery Flagging Event

a) Woodlawn Cemetery will host a flagging event at Woodlawn Cemetery on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Anyone who would like to attend should try to arrive around 9:45 AM so that everyone can be part of the same group.

4) Bronx Community Board 7's Veterans Committee will host a **Veterans Resource Fair On June 3, 2023**. The location is at Fordham Library at 310 East Kingsbridge Road. The time is from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

V) Adjournment

1) The next meeting for the Veterans Committee will be in September of 2023. On June 3, 2023, the Veterans Committee will host a Veterans Resource Fair.

2) Motion to adjourn meeting by Jean Hill, seconded by Emmanuel Asamoah.