



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



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT    LEURYS ACOSTA, CHAIRPERSON    KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Chad Royer</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>October 15, 2025</b>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Tracey Towers</a></u> 40 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx, NY 10468 (Building 40, Community Room B)</b>
<b>Members In Attendance:</b>	<b>✓ Chad Royer    ✓ Alfred Grant    ✓ Bernard Wright    ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Craig Rijkaard    _ Jake Wilson    ✓ Tobie Buford</b>
<b>Minutes done by:</b>	<b>Chad Royer</b>

**Minutes:**

- I. Guidelines & Code of Conduct for the meeting were read**
- II. Introductions/Attendance: Quorum met**
- III. The September 17, 2025, meeting minutes were approved, motioned by Jean Hill, seconded by Deahna Penn.**
- IV. Follow-up from Previous Month**
  - A. Regarding the Veterans Banner Program, the Office of Councilmember Pierina Sanchez responded that it is challenging to allocate funding in the middle of a fiscal year because all funds have already been designated. They are happy to discuss further so that they have a better understanding of the program and so that they can work with a timeline that works.**
  - B. Regarding the Veterans Breakfast, the date for the event is November 15, 2025. The committee is still waiting to hear from any elected officials who could be sponsors for the event, but the committee decided to have the members of the New York Grey Cadets as the honorees for the event, due to the amount of time we have left to prepare. The committee will continue to discuss outside of the meeting.**



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**V. New Business**

**A. Final Review Of The Fiscal Year 2027 Capital & Expense Budget Requests**

1. Two more ideas came up for the budget. The first one was to increase or promote programs to address behavioral health within the district, with the inclusion of terms like opioid use, addiction, substance abuse, and suicide awareness. The second one was to increase enforcement of illegal dumping laws on Bailey Avenue between West Kingsbridge Road and Sedgwick Avenue. Those items will be submitted to the office and the Executive Committee for consideration of the budget.

**VI. Announcements**

**A. Updates From The VA**

1. Due to the government shutdown, VA employees are not able to perform outreach initiatives.
2. Areas/services not impacted by the government shutdown include VA Medical Centers/Outpatient Clinics/Vet Centers, processing of VA benefits, burials at VA National Cemeteries, cases with the Board of Veterans' Appeals, select call centers, homelessness services, caregiver support and suicide prevention programs.
3. Areas/services that are impacted by the government shutdown include transition program assistance, call centers for the GI Bill and National Cemetery Applicant Assistance, VA benefits regional offices, public affairs, ground maintenance, placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries, applications for pre-need burials at VA cemeteries, and printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.
4. If anyone is interested in taking part in a suicide prevention coalition, please reach out to Ronald Downs, LCSW, at [Ronald.Downs@va.gov](mailto:Ronald.Downs@va.gov).

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



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**B. Bronx CB7's Protocols on Adult Use Cannabis Retail Dispensary Applications**

1. The committee and members of the public were given a brief synopsis of the protocol for any application for a cannabis retail dispensary. Once an application is received, the board has 30 days to review and provide an opinion. A public hearing is held, followed by a submission to the Veterans Affairs/Human Services Committee for a committee vote. If approved, the application is voted on by the Executive Committee. If approved, the application is voted on by the general board for a full board vote. If approved, a letter is sent to the Office of Cannabis Management. If any of the voting sessions does not get a majority approval, the application is deemed rejected and does not go forth.

**VII. The next meeting will be on November 19, 2025.**

**VIII. Motion to adjourn meeting by Jean Hill, seconded by Craig Rijkaard.**