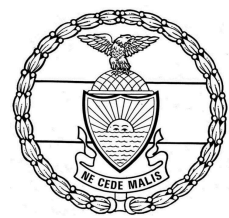


# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## 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>April 15, 2026</b>                                                                                                              |
| <b>Meeting Time:</b>          | <b>6:30 PM</b>                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Meeting Location:</b>      | <b><u><a href="#">Tracey Towers</a></u><br/>40 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx, NY 10468<br/>(Building 40, Community Room B)</b> |
| <b>Members In Attendance:</b> | <b>✓ Chad Royer   ✓ Alfred Grant   ✓ Jean Hill<br/>✓ Deahna Penn   ✓ Craig Rijkaard   _ Jake Wilson<br/>_ Tobie Buford</b>         |
| <b>Minutes done by:</b>       | <b>Chad Royer</b>                                                                                                                  |

### Minutes:

#### **I. Introduction**

#### **II. Review Of Previous Minutes**

- A. The February 18, 2026 meeting minutes were approved, motioned by Jean Hill, seconded by Craig Rikjaard.

#### **III. Review From Previous Meeting:**

- A. Jeff Malone from Fordham Village Veterans Residence raised a few issues within the building, including a discrepancy in rental payments: several Veteran residents' accounts are showing outstanding balances despite being current. Another issue with the building concerns sanitation, maintenance, and unresolved non-compliance-related matters that are not addressed in a satisfactory manner. The committee encourages making the necessary follow-ups with Council Member Feliz's office, Senator Gustavo Rivera's office, Assembly Member George Alvarez's office, HPD (Housing Preservation and Development), and DHCR (Division of Housing and Community Renewal).

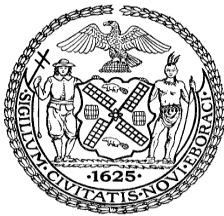
#### **IV. New Business**

- A. **NYC Department of Veterans' Services Presentation - Donee' Smalls, Executive Director of Housing and Supportive Services**

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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1. Donee' Smalls, an Army Veteran, briefly spoke about the NYC Department of Veterans Services and the various ways the agency can assist Veterans with housing matters. She also oversees the benefits team, which helps Veterans access their VA benefits.
2. DVS works with shelters, SSD providers, and organizations such as Jericho Projects. They work with the mayor's office and the Bronx Borough President's office in following up on Veterans' housing issues.
3. DVS has a Veterans Resource Guide that explains the various programs. Among them are the Dwyer Program, a peer-to-peer program that aids in addressing suicide prevention and mental health. They also organize employment fairs for Veterans and provide support for Veteran-owned businesses and entrepreneurship.
4. DVS has a homeownership program where, if a Veteran has a voucher such as a Section 8 voucher, they can go through the process of converting to the Housing Choice program. Someone will assist with the application process, as it can take several weeks.
5. There is a State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) Home for Veterans program that allows Veterans to apply for a loan of up to \$30,000 at 0% interest. At the present time, this does not apply to the Veteran's spouse, dependents, or widow. The committee considered supporting a legislative or policy idea (state, federal, or both) that would broaden eligibility to allow the spouse, dependents, or widow of a Veteran to qualify for this type of loan.
6. Donee' Smalls can be reached at [dsmalls@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:dsmalls@veterans.nyc.gov)

#### **B. Bronx CB7 Flagging Events**

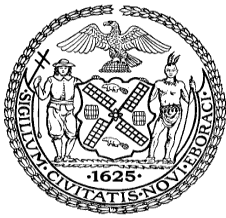
##### **1. The Bronx Victory Memorial event**

- a) The Bronx Victory Memorial flagging event will take place on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 10:00 am. The location is at Mosholu Parkway between Hull Avenue and Marion Avenue. Additional planning of the event, including the run of show, will take place prior to the actual date. All are encouraged to attend.

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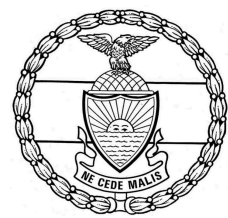
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## **2. Flagging at Woodlawn Cemetery Flagging**

- a) The Woodlawn Cemetery usually allows volunteer groups to visit gravesites to place flags on Veterans' headstones during the month of May. The dates available for visiting Woodlawn Cemetery for the Memorial Day theme are unknown as of the time of this meeting. Once the dates are announced, a date will be chosen so that members of the public can join the committee for the flagging event at Woodlawn.

## **C. Committee Discussion on Current Legislation about Veterans**

1. The committee members were reminded that they can entertain any legislative or policy ideas that can help the Veteran demographic. The committee will continue this discussion at the next meeting and possibly include one that came up during the DVS discussion at this meeting.

## **V. Announcements**

- A. The James J Peters Veterans Mental Health Council is a voluntary group of Veterans and Veteran advocates, led by a team of doctors and staff at the VA Hospital. Every VA is mandated to have an advisory council focused on mental health for Veterans, and the council continues to invite Veterans and advocates to attend its meetings.

## **VI. Next Meeting Date: May 20, 2026**

## **VII. Discussion on Next Agenda:**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

- A. Motion to adjourn meeting by Jean Hill, seconded by Deahna Penn.