

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

RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

TOM LUCANIA, INTERIM DISTRICT MANAGER

VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 11, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

I. Committee Members In Attendance:

- A) Helene Hartman – Kutnowksy; Jeffrey Hunter;
- B) **Ischia Bravo, Chaired Committee Meeting** - In Absence of Chairperson
- C) Velvet Ross – Recorded Minutes

Committee Members Excused:

- A) Robyn L. Saunders, Chairperson

Committee Members Absent:

- A) Carlos Gonzalez · Velvet Ross · Shanequa Charles

Attendees:

- A) Adaline Walker-Santiago, Bronx CB7 Chair
- B) Aldo Perez · Wendell Solano · Sheila Sanchez · John Reilly and David Mendez

II. Presenter · Guests:

a. **Wendell Solano, (Veteran)**

Forging Champions Consultant

Presented a PowerPoint Presentation on specialized training and development opportunities for organizations, businesses, institutions in need of investing in talent management. Services include **Talent Management, Successive Planning** and **Re-Structuring Work Guidelines**.

Forging Champions also provides Mentorship Opportunities and Self-Awareness Trainings specifically designed for Veteran's transitioning into the workforce.

Forging Champions Goals:

- a. Create Success for Future Generations
- b. Decrease Poverty
- c. Increase Salaries
- d. Increase Job Retention
- e. Increase Business and Home Owner
- f. Increase Graduation Rates – Eliminate Crime Rates

Attendees collectively agreed that in order to be an effective community base and resource for Veteran's it would be best to have a clear understanding of various branches of the Military to make presentations concerning discharge and services processes, allocation of benefits, and programs for veterans and their families.

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This will enable the committee to make informed decisions about future events, programs, and workshops. Moreover, identify best practices for referring members to housing, employment, vocational and training services.

III. Minutes Review:

- a. Minutes, recorded from December's meeting was unavailable for discussion.

IV. Upcoming Career Fairs, Trainings, Workshops, Resources and Information:

i) Workforce 1:

Recently extended the State's "Experience Counts" Initiative so that recently separated Veterans' with experience driving commercial motor vehicles in the military receive a skills test waiver, and obtain their Class A, B, or C Commercial Driver's License for FREE. Interested Candidates can call (718) 577-2126 to verify eligibility. *(flyers distributed)*.

ii) Training Vouchers For Veteran's Through Workforce 1:

Veterans can apply for a training grant for any of the following occupations: Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks, Certified Nursing Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistants, Computer Support Specialists, Network and Computer Systems Administrators, and Security Guards (Armed and Unarmed). *(flyers distributed)*.

iii) Workforce 1 Veteran's Resource Guide:

Offers priority services to help veterans and their spouses explore career paths, develop resumes, prepare for interviews, and identify education opportunities, training initiatives, and other support services designed specifically for veterans. *(Resource Guide distributed)*.

Resource Guide Link:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/wf1/downloads/pdf/VeteransResourceGuide.pdf>

V. Local Events

- i) **NYPL (CEIS) Career, Education and Information Services**, is hosting a Mini College and Career Fair Series during the month of January, 2016 at the following branches:

Francis Martin Library	January 22 nd , 2016	11am-4pm
125 th Street Library	January 26 th , 2016	11am-4pm
Bronx Library Center	January 27 th , 2016	11am-4pm
Grand Concourse Library	January 28 th , 2016	11am-4pm
Morrisania Library	January 29 th , 2016	11am-4pm

VI. Meeting adjourned.

Next Committee Meeting scheduled, Thursday, February 11th, 2016