



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 1, 2018 @ 7:30 PM

- I) Opening
- II) Discussion
 - A) The Veterans Brunch currently scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2018 at Lehman College.
 - 1) It was discussed that the honorees who received statues last year were very happy with those statues and were extremely happy with the fact that they were able to honor somebody that was there for them while they were deployed.
 - 2) It was mentioned that it was important for them to honor the people that were there for them because those are the people that made it easier for them to do their jobs and serve our country.
 - 3) We discussed keeping the statues from last year as is (the eagle and the wing).
 - (a) We will discuss the statues with the planners further and see if it is feasible to keep them as they were last year since they were a hit.
- III) We want to put the bios that we have on our CB7 website and we want to continue to add more bios for the website.
 - A) We need to coordinate with the library and/or CB7 staff so that we can assist the veterans with writing their bios.
 - B) We agreed that the bios should have this basic information: Name, picture, rank, deployments (if any), awards, medals and any other relevant information that the veteran and/or active duty member would like to share.
 - C) It was also discussed that we need to do a flyer calling for veterans in CB7 for the brunch and for future attendance in the veteran's committee meetings.
- IV) Future work for the VA committee, Service surrounding the WW1 monument that it is in its 100th year anniversary in 2018.
 - A) We will reach out to Ritchie Torres's office for help with the anniversary.
 - B) We will attempt to improve the monument and its surroundings as part of the anniversary.
 - C) We will research Mr. Gentle, who is said to be the ancestor of the soldier personified in the statue and invite him and his family to the anniversary event.
 - 1) We are thinking of having said event on or around Veterans Day.



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- 2) DM will connect me to Andrew Cohen who handles Ritchie Torres' affairs.
- V) It was also discussed that the VA committee schedule a tour of the VA hospital to discuss their services that are available to veterans and active duty members, including the changes and improvements that have been made in the VA.
- A) We will be scheduling this for the near future.
- VII) Lastly, the problems with homeless veterans were discussed as an issue that we agreed that it should be in the forefront.
- A) It was agreed that this is something that we should tackle at every chance that we can.
 - 1) The shelters that are in place should NOT be what we have to offer to our veterans.
 - 2) This issue will be something that the committee will continue to pursue endlessly and tirelessly.
- VIII) Adjournment – This concluded the meeting of the Veterans Committee.