



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chair:	Chad Royer
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, September 29th, 2020
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Members (Check Those In Attendance)	✓ Chad Royer ✓ Hugo Gonzalez ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Jeffery Hunter ✓ Helene Redd ✓ Adaline Walker-Santiago
Minutes done by:	Chad Royer

Minutes:

- I) Introductions**
 - a) Housekeeping**
- II) Review of previous minutes (If applicable)**
- III) Follow-up from previous month (If applicable)**
- IV) New Business**
 - a) Outreach Survey - The committee discussed the creation of a survey for outreach purposes and discussed what questions could be useful for survey data. One of the goals is to draw attendance to the committee events. Questions mentioned are the following:**
 - 1) What are current housing needs?**
 - 2) What are current medical needs?**
 - 3) Are you a veteran?**
 - 4) What are current issues being experienced in obtaining benefits at the VA?**
 - 5) What type of assistance is available for families?**
 - 6) How can we keep families together?**
 - 7) How accessible are job opportunities and online/virtual job opportunities?**
 - 8) How many veterans need jobs?**



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9) What are current gaps in services?

10) Who can provide such services that are needed?

- The discussion will continue offline and the committee will address how and when a survey will be used.

b) David Rosas, Platoon Sargent From The Mission Continues: Transition Into Civilian Life

- 1) Many organizations will tell someone what he/she could do once he/she leaves the military, but the advice would not be the same for everyone. Many good organizations want to help veterans, but sometimes there is poor follow-through. It is important for veterans to know where resources can be found. A few good resources are Department of Veteran Services, Community Board , Vet Center on Morris Avenue, Bronx VA Hospital and Caring Kind.**
- 2) It is important to understand any goals that individual veterans may have, since many veterans are passionate about serving the community in some way, shape or form. David Rosas suggested that veterans who transition into civilian life should take a step back and think about a primary goal and figure out what he/she would want to do, then, when searching for different organizations, find the ones that best help you achieve your goals.**
- 3) Needs of Veterans may differ depending on the war previously served. Not many services were available during the time of the older wars since record keeping was not reliable at the time. Record keeping as a whole is better now.**
- 4) A few stigmas that exist today regarding Veterans:**
 - Membership with the VA Hospital and receipt of compensation for a condition can be associated with a



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Veteran as having a debilitating condition, and this can cause a veteran to not be placed in a position for certain opportunities.

- **Some people assume that most veterans are older in age when many veterans are in their 30s**

c) Other Business

- 1) **An outreach flyer is being created for the purpose of reaching out to Veterans, family members of Veterans, and community members in the neighborhood who may have an interest in attending committee meetings and events.**

- V) Next meeting date – Wednesday, October 28th**
- VI) Discussion on next agenda**
- VII) Adjournment**