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**Testimony of Paul A. Vallone, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of External Affairs  
NYC Department of Veteran's Services**

**Before the Report and Advisory Board Review Commission  
September 28, 2022**

Good afternoon, Chairperson and members of the Report and Advisory Board Review Commission. My name is Paul Vallone, and I am the Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs for the New York City Department of Veteran Services (DVS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit and present testimony before the Commission on the Department's reporting requirements.

In my prior life as a Member of the New York City Council, I would eagerly await these types of reports to determine what steps the Council could take to better assist and facilitate the request being made by the reporting agency. Therefore, I commend the Commission's approach to review existing reporting requirements and determine where requirements can be streamlined to avoid duplication and over-reporting of similar data at various times throughout the year. Reporting on the critical work carried out by our agency on behalf of the 210,000 Veterans living in New York City is not only important but allows progress on an annual basis based on the past, current, and future needs of our local heroes.

While we value transparency, there are times when reporting requirements raise administrative burdens. Moreover, two of the reports we will discuss today have grown outdated and fail to capture the dynamic work of our dedicated and hardworking staff and providers across the New York City Department of Veteran's Services. Eliminating burdensome reporting requirements is particularly important for DVS, our City's youngest and smallest agency with a current head count of 27 staff (out of an allotted 41 positions).

Today we will be testifying about two agency reports that we believe are superfluous and ineffective in achieving the goals and objectives of DVS, and which should be waived by the Commission. These include:

**Outreach Materials Relating to Higher Education (LL 123/2019):** Local Law 123 of 2019 requires the Department, in consultation with the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, to develop outreach materials for Veterans on financial issues and resources related to higher education. We are requesting an exemption to the requirements of Local Law 123 of 2019 based on the duplication of information and resources already covered in the Veteran Resource Guide required by Local 216 of 2018. In the interest of efficiency, the Department is willing to include more information and resources related to higher education in its Veteran Resource Guide should the Commission approve our request to be exempted from the reporting requirements of Local Law 123 of 2019.



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**Bi-Annual Report on Veteran Resource Centers (LL 215/2018):** Local Law 215 of 2018 requires the Department to submit a report to the Council every six months with certain information about the Veteran Resource Centers established pursuant to Section 31-106 of the Administrative Code. This report duplicates the information currently reported by the Department in its Annual Report required by Local Law 44 of 2019. In the interest of efficiency, the Department is willing to include more data points on Veteran Resource Centers in its Annual Report should the Commission approve our request to be exempted from the reporting requirements of Local Law 215 of 2018.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of our waiver request.