

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

The Veteran's Advisory Board (VAB) was chartered in 1987 under Local Law 53 to advise the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs on all matters concerning Veterans.

Legislation expanding the VAB from five to nine members under Local Law 45 was implemented in 2002. There are nine appointees; five appointed by the Mayor and four appointed by the City Council. Each Borough of the City of New York is represented on the Board.

In 2006, intro 233 enhanced the structure of the VAB and added annual reporting requirements. Under this expanded enhanced Board, the first Chairman of the VAB was elected by the Board in 2008 and resigned his position in February 2009.

At the September 2009 Board meeting, Manhattan Representative Vincent McGowan was voted as the Chairman and Staten Island Representative Lee Covino as the Vice-Chairman.

The Board drafted By-Laws and adopted them in December 2009.

The March 10, 2010 meeting of the VAB concentrated on:

- The MOVA review by Public Health Solutions, copy of the report requested
- Business opportunities for Veterans- MOVA website updated with links to vetpreneurs. VAB to ask NYS Division of Veterans Affairs to also add links to the site. NYS MOVA complied with the request.
- Condition of Veteran Service Organizations
- Conducting our regular VAB meetings in all Boroughs
- Representation at the March 23, 2010 NY City Council MOVA oversight hearing

The July 1, 2010 Meeting of VAB concentrated on:

- Memorial Day & Fleet Week events city wide and the events impact our community
- Availability of flags for graves
- Review of the Veteran Job Fair
- Veteran recycling program
- NYC death certificates
- Veteran's Court for Queens
- St. Albans VA Hospital up date

- "Veteran Oral History Project" by Phil Napoli

The December 2, 2010 Meeting of VAB concentrated on:

- Introduction of Terry Holliday as the new Commissioner of MOVA to be named in 1/11
- Review of VAB By-Laws
- Agenda of 2011
- Services for Veterans; DHS update letter on Homeless Veterans to SIBP distributed and discussed.
- MTA issues including Veterans buy-back and 51 bus connection to Brooklyn VA Hospital were discussed
- GI Bill housing allowance disparity for 51 Veterans students attending CSI discussed.
- Status of Veteran Preference protocols as applied in NYC
- Status of receiving Public Health Solutions report
- Review of Federal & NYS Legislative goals for The Veteran's Community

The December 21, 2010 meeting of VAB concentrated on:

- Veteran Court
- Stand Down Plan
- Jan.8 '11 mass burial of 30 homeless veterans at Calverton Cemetery
- Status of Public Health Solutions Ex. Summary