



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NYC DVS Brings Together Volunteers to Build Furniture for Vets in Need**

**New York-** New York City Mayor Eric Adams today joined the NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) for a "Furniture Build-a-Thon" that brought together volunteers and local leaders to build furniture for formerly homeless Veterans who have recently transitioned to permanent housing. Organized in collaboration with The Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York City and the Office of Council Member Eric Dinowitz, more than 50 residents and Veteran leaders, including Mayor Adams and DVS Commissioner James Hendon, assembled tables and chairs at the JFK High School Campus in the Bronx. Veteran Service Organizations such as Team Red, White & Blue and Team Rubicon also pitched in to help.

Experts from the Fuller Center ensured volunteers knew how to use power tools safely and showed them the best practices for furniture assembly. Supplies and storage space for the more than 200 tables and chairs have been generously provided by sponsors PenFed Foundation and U-Haul.

"It is an honor to stand alongside this community and participate in today's event," **said New York City Mayor Eric Adams.** "Our homeless and housing insecure veterans deserve to live safely in a place that feels like home. My administration works tirelessly to ensure those who served our country have a stable roof over their head and a community to turn to for support. New York City has our veterans' backs no matter where they are in life, and we proudly stand ready to help. I applaud this partnership and thank the many New Yorkers who came together to make this great work happen."

"One of DVS' core agency functions is to help homeless Veterans find a permanent home," **said NYC Department of Veterans' Services Commissioner James Hendon.** "Seeing the community come together to support this mission shows just how much our city cares about those who served our country. Thanks to this tremendous partnership, these hand-built pieces of furniture will lovingly furnish the new homes of our recently housed Veterans. I am grateful to all our partners and volunteers for honoring our heroes in this incredibly meaningful way."

“We are grateful for this partnership,” said **The Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York City Executive Director Jim Killoran**. “Every Veteran deserves a decent place to live and great simple furniture to live with. I thank Mayor Adams, DVS, PenFed Foundation, U-Haul, and our local elected officials for making this event become a reality. The furniture we are building together is Made in America, by Veterans and for Veterans.”

"It was my great honor to host a furniture Build-a-Thon event for Veterans in my district. The event was a great success and really highlighted the amazing work the Department of Veterans Services does," said **Council Member Eric Dinowitz**. "Local agencies, volunteers and Bronx leaders, all worked together to support our formerly homeless Veterans that have sacrificed for our country. I am thankful to DVS for finding ways to gather our community and work towards a common goal for our heroes. I am looking forward to the second round of this fun event."

"As Chair of the Council Committee on Veterans, I'm proud of these Build-a-Thons with DVS and so many members of our communities," said **Council Member Bob Holden**. "Our veterans pledged to lay down their lives for us, so the least we can do is put a roof over their heads. And this hand-made furniture will turn their housing into a home, furnishing them with the appreciation of their fellow New Yorkers. I thank Commissioner Hendon, Council Member Dinowitz and everyone involved."

“As a veteran, I understand the needs of Veterans,” said **PenFed Foundation Director of Outreach, David Clark**. “I have been clear – we will work together and stand together with our partners who are continuously perusing relief for our military heroes. Our veterans and their families have dedicated their lives to our country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment. It’s about how we treat our Veterans every single day of the year. The willingness of our Veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude. It’s about ensuring we take care of them in any way possible and building furniture for our Veterans is our way of giving back to our communities.”

“Being a U.S. Navy veteran myself, I was thrilled to once again partner with DVS,” said **President of U-Haul Bronx & Manhattan, Jeff Sonberg**. I understand the importance of having community partners to help all who served and continue to serve our country. U-Haul is founded by a Navy veteran who returned home from WWII—L.S. Shoen. Shoen filled the need of the DIY mover and even employed many returning servicemen. We proudly carry out his legacy and remain a Veteran friendly company. Commissioner Hendon is a hands-on leader and inspires many, including me."

Two more Furniture Build-a-Thons will be held on August 6th and August 27th at Juniper Valley Park in Queens from 9am to 1pm in partnership with the Office of Council Member Robert Holden. Volunteers interested in participating should contact DVS: [norlando@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:norlando@veterans.nyc.gov) or 646-818-0289.

Juniper Valley Park can be reached by the Q47 and Q38 busses or in walking distance from the M and R Subway lines. The meeting site within Juniper Valley Park is situated at 80<sup>th</sup> Street between Juniper Valley South Boulevard and Juniper Valley North Boulevard.

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## About the New York City Department of Veterans' Services

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services' mission is to connect, mobilize, and empower New York City's Veteran community to foster purpose-driven lives for US Military service members—past and present—in addition to their caregivers, survivors, and families. We assist NYC Veteran community members on issues that include, but are not limited to employment, housing, food security, wellbeing, benefits, culture, and targeted advocacy. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/vets](http://www.nyc.gov/vets), call (212) 416-5250, email [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov), or follow us on social media [@nycveterans](https://twitter.com/nycveterans).