

# New York City Veterans Advisory Board

Minutes for November 28, 2018 meeting held at:

**David N. Dinkins Municipal Building**  
**1 Centre Street**  
New York, NY

## Members

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### Present:

Todd Haskins (Manhattan)	Wendy McClinton (Brooklyn)
Joe Bello (Bronx)	John Rowan (Queens)
James Hendon (Bronx)	Tiffany Daugherty (Manhattan)
Peter Kauffmann (Queens)	

### Absent:

Charles Hernandez (Bronx)	Charles Greinsky (Staten Island)
Annette Tucker Osborne (Brooklyn)	

## Minutes

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- Todd Haskins (Chair) commenced the meeting at 6:23 PM.
- All VAB members, including new members appointed by Mayor de Blasio (November 20, 2018) introduced themselves to the audience.

**Old Business:** The minutes for the June 2018 VAB meeting in Queens were approved. There are no minutes for the September meeting in the Bronx because the board did not have quorum.

**New Business:** The chair reviewed what the board is and its mandate: eleven-member body, appointed by the Mayor and Council Speaker. The chair discussed the delay in elections for the board until next year at our first meeting.

### Presentations:

**DVS:** Commissioner Sutton welcomed the new board members and everyone in attendance. She also introduced DVS members in attendance. Commissioner Sutton talked about the Veterans Day announcement regarding VetConnectNYC (formally NYServes). She discussed what it is, what it will do and how it will be an access multiplier for services. The Commissioner stated that the coordinating team is being run by Northwell Health and that they will be looking to add organizations to VetConnectNYC. The Commissioner also talked about setting up stand up

offices in each borough. Finally, Commissioner Sutton talked about the ongoing delays with the GI Bill (BAH). There are 12,000 student veterans and an unknown number of them have not received BAH since August. DVS is working with DSS on a focused assessment to provide a backstop to help those student veterans in need. The Commissioner stated she will keep us posted. The chair thanked the Commissioner and followed up by saying that we need to attract and support student veterans who want to come to NYC for school.

**Public Comments:** Board member Tiffany Daugherty hosted this part of the meeting. The following individual(s) gave public comments to the board:

**Mike Munoz:** Mr. Munoz works for the NYC Veterans Alliance. Talked about a lunch and learn that they are holding on the VA. Also asked that if anyone was interested in membership to come see him and that they were having a holiday mixer on December 17.

**Cameron Mease:** Mr. Mease works for Brooklyn Defenders. They are involved with the Veterans Court in Brooklyn and works with the VA's VJOs. He is looking to network and outreach for services for those veterans that do not qualify for VA benefits. Board member Wendy McClinton talked about the HVRP program.

**NYC Dept. of Finance:** Sonia Villamil from the NYC Department of Finance gave a presentation on the number of tax exemptions, including DRIE and SCRIE and then discussed the various veterans' exemptions that are available. The main three exemptions:

- Honorably Discharged (Served during a specific period) – 15%
- Combat Veteran Exemption (Period of War) – Additional 10%
- Disabled Veteran Exemption – Assessed value multiplied by 50% of the veteran's disability rating.

Ms. Villamil stated that individuals can qualify for all three exemptions if eligible. Ms. Villamil also discussed the process for veterans to apply and shared that they will help "handhold" the paperwork if veterans are uncomfortable mailing the paperwork to New Jersey.

For more information on veteran's exemptions and to register, visit:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/landlords-veterans.page>

**Cheryl Dupris:** Ms. Dupris represented the Native American Community. Ms. Dupris talked about the need for veterans to register their DD-214s. She talked about the need to coordinate with advertising so that veterans would register their DD-214s so that people will have the veteran's information when they pass away.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Next Meeting:** TBD, 2019

Submitted by: Joe Bello, Secretary