



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***New York City's Department of Veterans' Services Launches  
Citywide Survey of NYC Veteran Population***

*The results of the survey will paint a fuller picture of the needs of the 210,000 Veterans who live in the five boroughs in order to improve services and connections*

**New York** – The New York City Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) announced today that it is launching the [Veteran and Military Community Survey](#) to learn more about community demographics, identify service gaps, and improve care for the over 210,000 Veterans who live in New York City.

“New York City Veterans selflessly served and sacrificed for our country, yet there is a lot that we do not know about the demographics of these diverse constituents. Without this information, we lack a complete picture of their needs and a clear understanding of how best we can serve them,” said **Lieutenant Colonel James Hendon, Commissioner, DVS**. “This in-depth survey will provide us with robust insights into the Veterans who live here and ensure that New York City continues to lead the nation in being a Veteran-friendly city.”

The survey will delve into numerous topics such as age, income, housing, employment, and health care status to produce a detailed portrait of the Veteran population and provide crucial insights into their needs. Local Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, Reservists, Guardsmen, Veteran family members, and military caregivers are all asked to participate. Veterans can complete by visiting [nyc.gov/vetsurvey](http://nyc.gov/vetsurvey).

This effort is a result of Executive Order 65 signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio on March 8<sup>th</sup>, calling for the city to begin regular surveying of the Veteran community to help improve Veteran hiring practices, provide a better understanding of constituent demographics, and work with other city agencies to collect appropriate contact information from Veterans who use their services.

The survey also includes a portion where community members can opt-in to receive follow-up assistance and services from DVS based on their needs.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated social isolation, a range of mental health needs, and many other challenges for New York City's heroic veteran population, and this survey is a critical step toward ensuring that all veterans are connected to the services they deserve, including mental healthcare,” said **Susan Herman, Director of the Mayor's Office of ThriveNYC**. “I thank the Department of Veterans' Services for leading the way in understanding the needs of veterans so we can better serve the men and women who bravely served us.”

“The City University of New York applauds NYC DVS’ efforts to better understand the multidimensional needs of New York City’s veterans. CUNY is proud to be a first-choice destination for New Yorkers pursuing higher education, with 3,250 student veterans enrolled at our 25 institutions. Through the NYC Military and Veteran Community survey, CUNY is eager to learn how to better promote the wellness, academic success, and career readiness of our City’s veterans,” said **Chris Rosa, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Inclusion Initiatives, CUNY.**

“The MTA NYC Transit Veterans Resources Group looks forward to participating in this new Veterans Survey conducted by NYC Department of Veterans Services. We appreciate both the need and importance of acquiring a better understanding of the demographics and needs of all the veterans who work and/or live the New York Metropolitan area that our transportation agency serves. Moreover, we are pleased and honored to join with all of our peer veteran service organizations in this worthwhile joint endeavor,” said **Manolin Tirado, chairperson, NYC Transit Veterans Employee Resource Group.**

“I had the privilege of serving overseas and stateside with many incredible service members. Addressing the needs of those who served in the United States Military is vital work. To ensure this effort has greatest impact possible, I encourage all local veterans to complete this survey,” said **Sgt. Wilem Wong, NYPD Coordinator for Veterans Wellness.**

“Accumulating data about veteran demographics and needs will help the Department of Veteran Services to target aid for New York City veterans. This survey will ultimately help us to become better informed about the populations we serve. I look forward to the launch of the survey, and to hearing the results as they come in,” said **Councilman Chaim Deutsch, Chair of the NYC Council Veterans Committee.**

DVS will share the survey with Veteran Service Organizations and through an extensive media push and outreach to local nonprofits, businesses, colleges, and other New York City agencies. All responses from the survey will be anonymous.

Veterans who would like to know more about DVS can call (212) 416-5250 or visit [www.nyc.gov/vets](http://www.nyc.gov/vets).

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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).