



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX  
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT    EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON    ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

## VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Chad Royer</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Members: (Check Those In Attendance)</b>	<b>✓ Chad Royer    ___ Emmanuel Asamoah    ✓ Hugo Gonzalez ✓ Jean Hill    ___ Jeffery Hunter    ✓ Helene Redd</b>
<b>Minutes done by:</b>	<b>Chad Royer</b>

**Minutes:**

- I) Introductions**
- II) Review of previous minutes (If applicable)**
- III) Follow-up from previous month (If applicable)**
- IV) Request from Veterans Voice Newsletter**
  - a) A representative from Veterans Voice Newsletter was not able to attend the February meeting due to an unforeseen circumstance.**
- V) Outreach**
  - a) The committee initially received a request from the Education Committee to be a part of a memorial event at Woodlawn Cemetery. After reaching out to Ms. Barbara Selesky of Woodlawn Cemetery, the committee was informed that due to the current situation with COVID-19 and social distancing standards, the Woodlawn Cemetery would only be using the existing volunteers to assist with the flagging events during the Memorial Day season. They are currently working on the schedule and they will consider inviting outside groups to be volunteers if they find that they need more people and will have more information around middle to the end of April.**



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**b) The committee agreed to have the next round table event on Wednesday, May 26, 2021.**

**The topics will highlight health and mental health challenges that veterans are dealing with. The Health Committee, separately from the Veterans, have an initiative that they are working on that includes highlighting the health-related needs of the community. The feedback from the round table event will be provided to the Health Committee as an additional resource.**

## **VI) New Business**

**a) Update from David Rosas From The Mission Continues**

- 1) David Rosas brought up the issue of how a discharge can affect a veteran once he/she separates from the military. An honorary discharge will have a positive impact on the benefits received, but there are other discharges linked to disciplinary actions and it depends on whatever situation the person is facing**
- 2) There is something called "upgrading your discharge" where a person can have his/her discharge status changed so that he/she can access benefits resources earmarked for those who served his or her country.**
- 3) The Mission Continues and Friends Of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) are doing a tree pit cleanup on March 27, 2021 along the storefronts of Bainbridge Avenue. This event will honor women and women's history month. Lorita Watson will be highlighted as this is a service project that she is leading.**

**B) Presentation from Eva Hinds, David E. Jenkins, and Joseph Robinson of Veterans Voices Newsletter**

- 1) The newsletter was founded by US Marine Corp Veteran Amjad Mujaahid and the idea originated from a barbecue**



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gathering in the Spring of 2013 in New York City when he decided to document the event with photos and an article.

- 2) The goal is to put together a monthly publication and they are looking for veterans and civilian writers who can contribute to the newsletter with things like articles, poetry, recipes, events, et cetera.
- 3) Veterans Voices Newsletter wants to hear from veterans and civilians, and highlights that may times we do not hear from civilians who are directly or indirectly affected by loved ones who were in the war.
- 4) There is plenty of new information that needs to be shared with the veterans and the newsletter can help. Veterans Voices Newsletter wants to make a difference and some examples are highlighting the challenges in securing affordable housing for veterans, assessing the different degrees of mental health that veterans face and encouraging veterans, and encouraging more writing so that this helps with our veterans with healing.
- 5) President Eva Hinds can be reached at [vetvnews@gmail.com](mailto:vetvnews@gmail.com)

- VII) Next meeting date: TBD
- VIII) Discussion on next month's agenda
- IX) Adjournment