

## THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# BOROUGH OF THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7



Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, Borough President

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

### **VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Chair:	Chad Y. Royer
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	April 17, 2024
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	6:30PM
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Kittay Houses,
	2550 Webb Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468
Members	✓ Chad Royer ✓ Jean Hill
In Attendance:	_ Bernard Wright Tobie Buford
Minutes done by:	Chad Royer

#### **Minutes:**

- I. Guidelines & Code of Conduct for the meeting were read
- II. Introductions/Attendance: Quorum was met
- III. Review of March 2024 Minutes: Minutes were approved
- **IV.** Follow-up from Previous Month:

## A. Woodlawn Cemetery Visit

- 1. The committee decided to earmarked Monday, May 13, 2024 for a visit at the Woodlawn Cemetery where volunteers will place new flags at the gravesites of Veterans. The time would be from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and the public will be invited to attend.
- 2. No one from the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) was in attendance at the meeting. The board is looking to see if we can get DVS to come back and do a full presentation on how their services are rendered and how Veterans can navigate the system.

## **B.** Bronx Victory Memorial

1. The Bronx Victory Memorial flagging event will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 11:00am. All are welcome to attend.



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#### V. New Business:

## A. Bronx Historical Society Update On Veterans Initiatives

- 1. The Bronx Historical Society has recorded four veterans' oral histories. Two are men and two are women, where two of them served in the Army and the other two served in the Navy.
- 2. On Wednesday, July 24, 2024, the VA's Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color (BIPOC) Coalition will host a Veterans Resource Fair. There will also be an opportunity for veterans to record short video takes where they can introduce themselves. Further details will be shared.

## **B.** Jeffrey Hunter Award Conversation

1. Since the last meeting, a few former board members who served in the veterans committee were reached out for feedback on how past events took place. Cole Hawkins, the former Veterans Committee Chairperson, said he would try to get back to us and look for any content that he may still have.

## C. Community Conversation

- 1. The committee continued discussion on the idea of addressing placements of housing for veterans. In New York City, developers are not necessarily bound to reserve a specific allotment for veterans in buildings that could be earmarked for mixed housing, market rate housing, or lower income housing.
- 2. An idea would be to mandate a minimum percentage of occupancies for veterans who need housing in either a new building or an existing building under conversion. The committee agreed that an inquiry should be made on whether there is a law or policy in the books that exists and this question will be raised at the Executive Board meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024 and possibly the Housing Committee.
- VI. Next Meeting Date: May 15, 2024
- VII. Discussion on Next Agenda: N/A
- **VIII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn meeting by Jean Hill, seconded by Chad Royer.