



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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***Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President***

**MS. EVONNE CAPERS  
Board Chairperson**

**MR. JOHN SANCHEZ  
District Manager**

**Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Michael Nelson, Committee Chairperson

The Veterans Committee Meeting met on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 via Zoom Audio and Video Conferencing. The following members were present: Clarita Bailon, Matthew Martinez, Michael Nelson, Carmen Rivera and Maria Ruiz.

The following item was discussed:

- New York City Department of Veterans' Services

Terrance Holliday informed us that the New York City Department of Veterans' Services fosters purpose-driven lives for New York City service members, veterans, and their families through community engagement, target advocacy and compassionate service. Housing and Support Services include expanding housing resources, peer to peer assistance and aftercare to ensure housing stability. The Housing Coordination Center increases the supply of housing available to homeless veterans by finding brokers, property owners, and managers who are looking to house homeless veterans. Veteran Peer Coordinators support veterans in shelters by helping to find affordable housing, identifying apartments veterans are eligible for, providing transportation to and from apartment viewings, ensuring veterans have rental subsidies and all necessary documentation needed for housing and coordinating with interagency and housing partners for fast inspections. The Department of Veterans' Services also co-administers a rental subsidy program with New York City Housing Authority to provide disconnected veterans access to Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Section 8. The department's aftercare and eviction prevention includes regular check-in calls, referrals to community partners if the veteran seeks additional services, rental arrear and mediation for both the landlord and the tenant. During the pandemic, the Department of Veterans' Services' Housing and Support Services team is working remotely to protect vulnerable veterans and are maintaining contact with clients, landlords, shelter staff and agency partners to identify available apartments, offer virtual tours and safely provide in-person viewings. The department's staff is coordinating meal deliveries with GetFoodNYC for veterans in need. They are also collaborating with the New York State Division of Veteran Services, the Campaign Against Hunger and Black Veterans for Social Justice to distribute 350 to 400 HelloFresh food kits to veteran households per week. The department's staff members have been trained and accredited to assist veterans with their Veteran Affairs claims. They are working with the New York State Department of Veterans' Services. The department co-created a veteran-specific version of the Mental Health First Aid training, which is designed to address the unique mental health challenges that veterans may experience. The staff members can also facilitate the Mental Health First Aid training course to community groups and businesses looking to support veterans in their community. The New York City Department of Veterans' Services partnered with the Mayor's Office of ThriveNYC to launch Mission: VetCheck, a new program that is designed to connect veterans during this period of isolation. Volunteers from the veteran community are making check-in calls to fellow veterans across the City. These calls provide veterans with information on public services, COVID-19 testing locations and online mental health support.

***Vacant,  
City Council Member, 15<sup>th</sup> Council District***

***Honorable Rafael Salamanca Jr.,  
City Council Member, 17<sup>th</sup> Council District***