

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

MEETING MINUTES SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICES November 29, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

Present at meeting:

Sergio Villaverde (chair)
Rob Jacklosky
Julia Gomez
Tommy Lamb (MJHS veteran liaison)
Miryam Rabner (MJHS cultural sensitivity)
Lorenzo Manzano (CM Dinowitz office)
David Gellman
Stephanie Erlich (ED of VCP Alliance)
Rob Spalter

1. Call to Order

7:07 PM Sergio Villaverde, Chair, called meeting to order.

2. Introduction of members and attendees occurred.

3. Report from NYC Council Member and Chair of Committee on Veterans,
Hon. Eric Dinowitz.

CM Dinowitz reported:

- a) That he is having monthly hearings of the Council Veterans Committee at this point.
- b) Discharge status upgrades are an issue for our veterans to qualify for Federal benefits.
- c) There will be a joint meeting with Small Business Committee regarding Veteran Vendor Licenses.
- d) There will be a new office within the office of the Mayor regarding mental health issues. Chair Dinowitz proposed that a DVS representative be a part of that group. Explicitly including veterans in the law is a priority.
- e) He will propose that 2 members of the Veterans Advisory Board be family of veterans.
- f) Proposal for State Legislature to name NY a Purple Heart State.
- g) NYC Veterans should be referred to VetConnectNYC (nyc.uniteus.com)

Tommy Lamb mentioned that there are many issues including access to the VA. Veterans are sometimes turned away without applying.

4. Memorial Grove:

Chair Villaverde reported on the success of event held on November 7, 2021 and thanked Mr. Herb Barrett and the Jewish War Veterans for their tireless dedication. Mr. Barrett announced that this would be his last year coordinating the event.

Discussions held regarding plans for future events and future of the grove.

5. Coordination with Elected Officials regarding Veteran Issues.

Office will send formal letter advising our elected officials and other stakeholders of the existence of this committee and the interest the CB has in veteran issues.

6. Outreach to local veteran groups

We will attempt to have our first in person meeting at a veteran location.

7. New Business:

MJHS, Tommy Lamb, is hosting a vet-to-vet café discussing benefits via Zoom December 15, 2021 at 1530 (3:30pm).

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91834919920?pwd=ZTRUWIZVRnUxdnRQUDdxcFpMU#success> All are invited.

8. Old Business

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Submitted by Sergio Villaverde