

Pending Committee Approval

**Minutes of Special Committee on Veterans' Services Meeting
Bronx Community Board 8
Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Bronx Ale House - 216 West 238th Street, Bronx, NY, 10463**

Committee Board Members in Attendance (4): Sergio Villaverde, Margaret Della, Julia Gomez, Emily Hausman

Committee Board Members Absent (0): None

Community Committee Members in Attendance (CCM) (1): Rob Spalter

Community Committee Members Absent (CCM) (2): Herbert Barret (Excused), Patrick Watson

Guest: Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Yoselin Brice

- I. Welcome and call to order - 7:14 pm
- II. Approval of prior committee minutes - January 2025 and June 2025
- III. **Chairperson's report** – Presented: We have a new NYC VS Commissioner. We all welcome Commissioner Yesenia Mata NYC DVS and DAV

Guest Speaker: Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Yoselin Brice

- A. VSOs are organized by council district, and not all council members give the VSO space in their offices to assist Veterans
 - B. VSOs help veterans file for benefits including, but not limited to healthcare, housing, education, and tax exemptions.
 1. They assess veterans and help them apply for benefits
 2. Follow the cases until the case is complete
 - C. This service is free (see handout)
 - D. There are an estimated 250,000 - 300,000 veterans in. Not all of them know the benefits they are entitled to, and those who do often find the system overwhelming
 - E. This program is funded through the Valone initiative fund
- IV. Memorial Grove - 11/1/26. Date selected subject to partner confirmation.
- A. Margaret to reach out to VCPA
- V. MVV Award
- Motion by Julia Gomez, 2nd by Robert Spalter
- A. Review of nominee #1's bio. Committee unanimously agreed
- VI. Old Business - None
- VII. New Business – None
- VIII. Adjournment 8:20PM

Submitted by Chair, Sergio Villaverde