

Alida Camp
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com - Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Veterans Committee
Tuesday, December 17, 2019–6:30PM
CB8 Office
505 Park Avenue**

MINUTES:

Participants: Barry Schneider, Chair, Peter Patch, Co-Chair, Alida Camp (Chair, CB8), Billy Freeland (CB8), Joli Golden (US Census), James O'Brien, Daniel Pollay (Weill Cornell Medicine), Jack Robbins (for Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright), Lynne Shinozaki (CB8), Judy Schneider (member of the public), James Young (MJHS Health System).

Key Points of Discussion:

(1) Mission Statement:

- a. The Veteran's Committee plans to review and modify the Mission Statement for the Committee.
- b. The Committee aims to focus on what we can do for veterans, with a particular focus on areas such as physical health, mental health, housing, education, job search, vendor licenses, and other rights and benefits, as well as to promulgate the services that the City makes available to Veterans, including through the City Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) Veteran's Health Services:

- a. Weill Cornell Medicine provides veterans access to services through the Family Wellness Center free of charge, including health care and counselling, as well as conducting research on diseases that impact veterans, with a concentrated effort on PTSD.
- b. MJHS Health System, founded in 1907 in Brooklyn, provides home care, hospice and palliative care for veterans, as well as adults and children, through skilled centers for rehabilitation, nursing care hospice and palliative care, health plans for Medicare and its managed long-term care plan.

(3) Programs for Veterans

- a. Jericho Project: The goal of Jericho's Veterans Initiative is to increase supportive and affordable housing options and to create employment opportunities for homeless and low-income veterans in New York City.
- b. Roosevelt Island, home to 300 veterans (of 8335 in UES & RI), has identified a need to provide housing services for veterans, as well as related support services for those veterans.
- c. Joli Golden of the US Census spoke of the aim to attract veterans from the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island (UES&RI) as census workers. Lorraine Brown of CB8 conducts targeted training programs for potential census workers, which could target veterans from UES&RI.

(4) Outreach to Veterans:

- a. The Veteran's Committee is concerned about how to provide effective outreach to veterans.
- b. The incoming Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs from the Mayor's office, James Hendon, aims to reach out and get veterans together, with a particular focus on veterans of Iraq,

Afghanistan and the Gulf War, so as to improve communication and access to services for veterans within the city.

- c. The NYC Veterans Alliance, under the leadership of Kristen Rouse, provides outreach to veterans, including older generations of veterans from the conflicts of WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

(5) Key Activities & Next Steps:

- a. Veteran Registration: One key step is to encourage all veterans to register with the VA, to document their right to veteran's health benefits and other services. The armed services do not provide this potential service to veterans, but leaves the responsibility to the veterans to contact the VA to register following discharge.
- b. Outreach Plan: A natural next step would be for a representative of the CB8 Veteran's Committee to contact (a) the NYC Department of Veterans Affairs, (b) the elected officials representing UES & RI to serve as a point of contact for veteran's issues and programs, and (c) those programs providing services of particular value and benefit for veterans.

Other potential steps: Contact Jolie Golden of the US Census at 862 336-2911 with regard to a Census training program for veterans of UES & RI; contact Cornell Tech with regard to possible technical training for veterans.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted – M. Barry Schneider and Peter Patch, Co-chairs