

New York City Veterans' Advisory Board
346 Broadway # 815
New York, NY 10013

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Mayor Bill de Blasio
New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

From: Vince McGowan, Chairman
Lee Covino, Vice-Chairman

Re: New York City Veterans' Advisory Board Annual Report for 2014

Date: January 15, 2015

cc: Commissioner Loree Sutton, MOVA
Council Member Eric Ulrich, Chairman, Chair, New York City Council Committee on Veterans
Board of Directors, New York City Veterans' Advisory Board

The New York City Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) met all of its requirements as directed under the New York City Charter. Local Law 10.

Attached are notes from the approved agenda and minutes.

Attention to the work of the New York City Veterans Advisory board has increased in the past year due to a renewed interest in the work of the VAB by the NY City Council's Committee on Veterans and by the administration's appointment on September 2, 2014 of Loree Sutton MD, Brigadier General (Ret) as Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs.

2014 saw the signing into NY State law by Governor Cuomo a basket of benefits that over all improve the lives of New York's veterans, adds financial opportunity to our everyday lives and gives honor and respect to our service through special recognition.

NYS license plates can have our service represented on our vehicle license plates and an ID card showing service is available as well as special access to NYS recreational opportunities.

This renewed interest is a very good sign that NYC continues to appreciate the benefits that a strong, informed veterans' community will bring to the returning men and women who have been fighting our nation's longest war.

Although many of the Veteran Advisory Board members' terms of service on the board have expired; when asked, the members agreed to stay on as the new administration puts its plans in place so as to provide continuity and history to the decisions for the future.

VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD (VAB)
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Veterans Advisory Board meeting minutes 11/25/14

Attendance sheet circulated. Quorum attended
In attendance were the following members:

Vince McGowan (Chair)
Lee Covino (by phone)
Pat Devine (by phone)
Paul Rieckhoff (by phone)
Anthony Giovinco
Wendy McClinton
John Rowan

Meeting began at 5:35 pm

MOVA provided light refreshments

Material distribution:

- Agenda for the meeting

Agenda Topic: Discussion of MOVA moving Forward

Commissioner Sutton:

- Complete Layout of move plan when it is approved by City Hall.
- MOVA will focus on veteran homelessness, mental health, jobs and housing – through education and access of New York City resources.
- Connect Veterans with both public and private resources, and provide assistance using crowdsourcing platforms.
- Attracting and retaining reintegrating veterans to NYC.
- Monthly community Lunch, Listen and Learn sessions at MOVA.
- Set up of outreach stations in the outer Boroughs discussed.

Agenda Topic: Discussion on Recommending Criteria to Vet Members of the VAB

- Members will send possible VAB members to Rochelle
- Chair will continue for another year for continuity in a nonvoting role
- Important that the new members represent each Borough and age group

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting- February 17th 5:30 pm

Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB)
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 16th, 2014

**Attendance sheet circulated by MOVA, quorum attended
In attendance were the following members:**

Vince McGowan (Chair)
Lee Covino (by phone)
Pat Devine
Stephanie Dawson
Marvin Jeffcoat
Wendy McClinton
Anthony Giovinco
Jason Hansman (on behalf of Paul Rieckhoff)

Meeting began at 5:32 pm

MOVA provided light refreshments

Material distribution:

Agenda for the meeting
Meeting Minutes
UWVC Veterans Week Announcement
Office of General Services: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act FAQ
VAB Appointment Date Sheet

Agenda Topic: Roll Call

John Rowan was absent

Agenda Topic: Remarks from MOVA Commissioner Loree Sutton

- Commissioner stated she is honored to serve as the new MOVA Commissioner and looks forward to working with the VAB and benefit from its members' experience
- Initial assessment in progress; anticipates launching new MOVA strategy to follow, fully leveraging the unique relationship with the Mayor, City Council, NYS & all NYC sectors
- Brief overview of upcoming MOVA move to 1 Centre Street; VSOs to sign MOAs as a requirement for occupying office space to serve Veterans and their families
- Requested VAB to discuss City Council hearing regarding MOVA becoming a department to understand VAB arguments either for or against the proposal

Agenda Topic: Veteran Advisory Board members introduction to Commissioner

- Giovinco – had question on the status of MOVA VSO's & receiving funding to continue services.
- V. McGowan - stated UWVC through their Recycling Program was prepared to fund VSO but identified issue with (c)(19)'s.
- Commissioner – Question regarding how many (c)(19)'s are issued for the City.
- M. Jeffcoat – stated Council member Ulrich has a paid VSO on staff. Invited Commissioner to State Legislative Breakfast.
- Devine – November 9th, Bronx having Veterans Day Parade; November 15th, NY American Legion, Bronx, hosting a town hall meeting & November 17th -18th follow-up meeting with the Bronx VA hospital.
- W. McClinton – provides housing resource with SSVF Program, Shelter, Grant Per Diem Program and Low Income Housing. Proposed getting HPD, DHS, ACS, NYCHA & DHCR to provide veterans preference.
- S. Dawson – Port Authority has high-quality jobs but not able to fill the positions. Propose mass job fair.
- L. Covino – Vets having issues with receiving licensing for certifications earned in the service. Claims some MOS's are not translated for civilian jobs.

Agenda Topic: Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes were accepted

Agenda Topic: Review and Discuss Terms of Office and Open Seats on the VAB Board

- Hand-out read by A. Giovinco

Agenda Topic: Update on Veteran's Week & Veteran's Day

- Hand-out distributed

Agenda Topic: Discuss making the First VAB Chair & Vice-Chair Ex-Officio or Emeritus status for one year to ensure continuity of institutional memory of the Board

- Motion was made to accept proposal with changes made: adding the Vice-Chair as a one-time consideration and just the Chair for future considerations. S. Dawson seconded the motion and accepted by entire Board.

Agenda Topic: Discuss Promoting That Veterans File Their DD-214's at the County Clerk

- Suggestion was made to hold press conference w/ county clerk's office promoting the proposal.

Agenda Topic: Discuss Status of the City Council Opting In to the New State Real-Estate Tax Exemption, Which Eliminated the Onerous School Tax Multiplier

- State is given the option, NYC is not
- Suggested to discuss with City Council Veteran Committee at hearing

Agenda Topic: Discuss NYC Hearing on NYC Veteran Advisory Board Schedule For Sept/Oct 2014

- Board wants on the record will not make a decision regarding NYCC hearing proposal until all members can review council's recommendations.

Next Meeting: November 25th, 2014 @5:30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 7:30 p.m.

Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB)
Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Veterans Advisory Board meeting minutes May 1st, 2014

**Attendance sheet circulated by MOVA, quorum attended
In attendance were the following members:**

Vince McGowan (Chair)
Lee Covino (by phone)
Pat Devine (by phone)
Stephanie Dawson (by phone)
Marvin Jeffcoat
Wendy McClinton
John Rowan

Meeting began at 6:17pm

MOVA provided light refreshments

Material distribution:

- Agenda for the meeting, circulated in advance
- Governor Cuomo Holds First New York Veterans and Military Families Summit Announcement
- Assembly Agenda A6516 Mental Hygiene Law
- New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer Sandy Oversight Hearing
- The Center of Minority Veterans

Agenda Topic: Board Make Up and How VAB Interacts with de Blasio's Administration

- Some board members overdue for recertification
- Consider writing letter to Mayor and City Council to address appointment of board members. Will request meeting.

Agenda Topic: NYS Veteran Summit Report

- 6% for participation on state contracts by small businesses owned by veterans with service-connected disabilities signed on Monday.

- A request was made for primer to have access to benefit

Agenda Topic: Fleet Week

- Invites for the Fleet Week Mayoral breakfast goes out tomorrow

Agenda Topic: MOVA Update (Commissioner Holliday)

- Move is completed
- Commissioner Holliday request to identify every organization working with or affiliated with MOVA on 3rd floor
- Every organization will be responsible for sharing items and space.

Agenda Topic: NYCC Hearing Schedule. VAB Attending and Testifying

- Vince M. and John R. testified on behalf of VAB
- Honorable Redman Haskin has been assigned the veteran advisor
- Coco Culhane, Urban Justice League testified to receiving funding to address bad discharge upgrades
- Bill A6516 Ortiz, No Same as Mental Hygiene Law establishes a peer support program for vets. Currently on Assembly Committee Agenda

Agenda Topic: Board Member Report of Activity in their Borough

- Marvin J. reports Queens held The Center for Minority Veterans Summit. Was not well attended or advertised
- Marvin J. reports Queens Flag Day Parade June 14th, 2014
- John R. reports May 24th, 2014 Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting from 10-1pm at IBEW Hall on Parsons Blvd.
- Pat D. reports May 12th, 2014 veterans breakfast at Maestro's
- Pat D. reports May 26th, 2014 Bronx Memorial Day Parade in City Island Leonard Hawkins Post
- Wendy M. reports BVSJ Parade May 26th, 2014, Honoring Women Veterans
- Wendy M. reports Mini Employment Fair

Agenda Topic: VAB Meeting Minutes and Annual Reports Open to the Public

- VAB website hyperlink and minutes will be on MOVA website
- Recommend construction sign to be posted on web page in regard to intent

Agenda Topic: Army Week

- June 12, 2014 Army Gala
- Wednesday June 11th, 2014 Breakfast and Award Presentation & Luncheon

Next Meeting Date: August 21, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm

Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB)
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 13, 2014

Veterans Advisory Board meeting minutes 3/13/2014

Attendance sheet circulated by MOVA, quorum attended
In attendance were the following members:

Vince McGowan (Chair)
Lee Covino (by phone)
Derek Bennett (by phone)
Pat Devine (by phone)
Anthony Giovinco
John Rowan
Stephanie Dawson
Wendy McClinton

Meeting began at 5:30

Material distribution:

- Agenda for the meeting, circulated in advance
- Federal Priorities for MOVA 2014

1 Agenda Topic: Update on the Mayors Appointment of Our MOVA Commissioner

No work on MOVA leadership transition. MOVA office continues to serve constituents as required and to perform all functions as required by Local Law

#2 Agenda Topic: Update on the MOVA move

The Move is currently scheduled for March 25th

#3 Agenda Topic: Veteran Advisory Board Membership update and Election

Board member terms discussed and distributed. All members have agreed to stay on the Board until further notice

#4 Agenda Topic: Review & discuss the federal priorities for 2015 funding and a policy priority list

We reviewed the Commissioner's Federal Priorities for MOVA including information for the VA, Support Veterans' Organizations, Employment, and Housing

5 Agenda Topic: Update on Black Veterans for Social Justice housing for Women

Women Veteran Housing that will enable Women and their children to live for up to two years. They must make progress to permanent residence.

Social Services Program- Assists 175 veterans that deal with either homelessness or homelessness prevention.

Commissioner will invite the DHS Commissioner to our next meeting to discuss housing specialized for Women.

6 Agenda Topic: Expected of Military Veterans due to Downsizing of forces-what this means to NEW YORK CITY

VSO plan in place to absorb the surge in returning service members; funding will come through UWVC recycling plan

7 Agenda Topic: Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day - 50th Anniversary

Invitations were sent out to the VAB Board Members

8 Agenda Topic: Memorial Day in NYC- inform our community

Vince will send out list of events to the VAB Members

If you are interested in requesting military members for your parade, please contact the Navy Public Affairs Officer

9 Agenda Topic: Army Week Update

We are still trying to get information in writing from Chris Page

#10 Agenda Topic: Discuss any ideas for the 70th Anniversary of D Day-June 6, 2014

There will be a reef laying ceremony at City Hall on June 6th
The Intrepid may be a possible location for an event

11 Agenda Topic: Update on VAB history being merged into MOVA website

MOVA is currently working on adding VAB information to our website
It may be several months for the completion of this project

#12 Agenda Topic: Future Dates for VAB Meetings

May 1st, August 21th, and November 6th

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.