



Testimony of Loree Sutton, M.D., Brigadier General, U.S. Army, Retired  
Commissioner of the New York City Department of Veterans' Services  
New York City Council Committee on Veterans  
Preliminary Budget Hearing - Veterans

Committee Room - City Hall  
1:00pm, Monday, March 12, 2017

Good afternoon Chair Deutsch and the members of the Committee on Veterans. My name is Loree Sutton and I have the privilege to serve as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Veterans' Services (DVS). I am joined today by our Deputy Commissioner Jeff Roth, at Lieutenant Colonel in the New York Army National Guard and 11 year veteran of City service. At this moment, we would like to welcome Chair Deutsch and the newly-installed members of the Committee on Veterans, and thank former Chair Ulrich and previous members of the Committee for their work in pushing forward the interests of veterans and their families in New York City.

Thank you for the opportunity to meet and discuss DVS' Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

Each new fiscal year presents the opportunity to take stock of how far we have come, examine the City's resources and make decisions that ensure that we can continue delivering the support that our veterans and their families across the five boroughs have so admirably earned. We are confident the upcoming budget talks will translate into a financial plan that will enable DVS and the City of New York to continue as a national model for serving those who have so bravely served our nation.

In 2015, The New York City Council passed historic legislation, which was then signed into law by Mayor Bill de Blasio in the form of Local Law 113, to create a branch of our city government dedicated to building the strongest foundation possible for connecting veterans and their families with high quality services across a variety of needs. In 2016, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs transitioned into a full citywide agency specifically devoted to the well-being and support of veterans and their families, now known as the New York City Department of Veterans' Services. Through enduring collaboration, we are strengthening our veterans' capacity for and commitment to, continued service within our city.

As the first new agency in The City of New York in over 15 years, DVS has diligently worked to onboard a talented and diverse group of professionals to match resources with veteran needs. Since April 2016, the agency has grown to a staff of 36 individuals, and is well on its way to hiring the additional professionals who will bring us to a total of 41 DVS team members. In FY18, \$4.3 million in funding was allocated under the agency's budget for staffing and programmatic functions.

Core to DVS is the belief that veterans and their families are our City's leading natural renewable resource, and their strength and demonstrated commitment to public service will help New York City thrive. Veterans consistently tell the agency that navigating services is one of the biggest challenges in accessing services. So at DVS, we take the trial and error out of navigation. DVS works with veterans one-on-one to help them figure out what benefits they might be eligible for and how to get access to services, through three main lines of action as follows:

- Housing & Support Services
- Whole Health & Community Resilience
- City Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education, Events & Engagement

### **Housing & Support Services (HSS)**

The Housing and Support Services (HSS) Unit is dedicated to effectively ending veteran homelessness in New York City. HSS leads and supports initiatives to expand and improve housing and social service resources available to NYC veterans and their families, and provides assistance to veterans navigating existing resources. Its top priority is working with homeless veterans, developing and sustaining a system that rapidly rehouses all those that become homeless, and working with DVS' public and private partners to prevent homelessness in the first place.

In conjunction with the VA and a network of dedicated private partners, DVS and its City partner agencies have reduced overall veteran homelessness by 90% since 2011, almost double the national reduction during that same time period (47%).

In Calendar Year 2017 alone, over 700 veterans were placed into permanent housing. DVS placed 168, or 24%, of these veterans into their new homes.

New York City also prioritized housing its most vulnerable veterans first. In December of 2015, the federal government certified New York City for ending *chronic* veteran homelessness – those residing on the street or in shelter for at least one year and whom are living with a disability.

To reach these milestones, DVS developed and implemented three innovative new models:

1. **Veteran Peer Coordinator (VPC) Program:** establishing a peer-to-peer model of veterans and veteran advocates working one on one to help homeless veterans navigate the incredibly challenging housing search process in NYC.
2. **Housing Coordination Center:** providing a one-stop housing placement service to affordable housing owners and property managers, managing the referrals, inspections, subsidy documentation, etc. needed to promptly fill vacant units with eligible tenants. In 2017 DVS added to this model a point person specifically for attracting and managing relations with private market landlords.

3. **Aftercare & Prevention:** ensuring that recently housed veterans and their landlords receive the support they need for a successful transition back into housing and that all veterans at risk of homelessness have someone who can steer them toward assistance.

Additionally, the Housing & Support Services unit continues to develop new programs and policies to reach our hardest to house veterans. For example, this past year DVS partnered with the New York City Housing Authority on a federal pilot program to provide special Section 8 vouchers (HUD-VASH) for those who had previously been ineligible for the voucher because of their discharge status.

DVS is committed to continuing this work with our city, state, federal and community partners, expanding and improving the resources and systems necessary to effectively end veteran homelessness in NYC.

### **Whole Health & Community Resilience**

DVS is actively working in support of First Lady Chirlane McCray's pioneering mental health plan, *ThriveNYC*, to overcome stigma, foster engagement, and connect individuals to professional services. The *VetsThriveNYC* Whole Health Program is the DVS veteran-focused complement to the *ThriveNYC* Mental Health Roadmap.

The goal of *VetsThriveNYC* is to improve the lives of NYC veterans and their families by enhancing access to a comprehensive range of services specifically tailored to their needs and strengths with a targeted focus on a coordinated integration of clinical and holistic services, incorporating peer social support, cultural engagement and the arts, that address the full impact of war on the mind, body and spirit.

The *VetsThriveNYC* Whole Health Program consists of two components:

1. *ThriveNYC Veteran Outreach Team:* The Whole Health and Community Resilience (WHCR) Veteran Outreach Team is committed to community engagement with New York City veterans and their families to increase social engagement and help-seeking behaviors in the context of a peer-based support model. The WHCR Veteran Outreach Team supports all veterans regardless of discharge status, military/veteran caregivers, and their families. The multi-pronged outreach approach is designed to engage the full scope of the veteran's life. Outreach activities, and the corresponding *ThriveNYC* guiding principles they support.
2. *Core4' Whole Health Model:* A non-linear dynamic model featuring four domains: Cultural Engagement & the Arts (C1), Connection via Peer Social Support (C2), Community Holistic Services (C3) and Clinical Treatment (C4). Each domain of the Core4 Whole Health Model™ includes: (1) a DVS outreach team lead; (2) a community expert; and (3) a set of domain-specific programs and strategies. Collectively, this group works together to engage veterans, service members, veteran caregivers and the broader NYC community.

Grounded in the Six Guiding Principles of the *ThriveNYC* mental health plan, the WHCR Team's multi-pronged outreach approach and Core4 Whole Health Model™ programs have engaged veterans since September 2016 by:

- *Changing the Culture:* Through Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings, which focus on increasing awareness of mental health concerns and connection to services through education, DVS has trained 6 members of the WHCR team as certified MHFA instructors, who have trained over 200 members of the New York City community in either Adult or Veteran/Military Family MHFA. We have completed training to over 20 NYC Agency Veteran Liaisons, staff at the NYC Department of Transportation, and 95% of the DVS internal staff in Veteran/Military Family MHFA.
- *Closing Treatment Gaps:* In conjunction with NYC 311, DVS ensured the connection of over 260 veterans to mental health services at the VA Crisis Hotline, and connected over 480 individuals to mental health resources through NYC Well and an array of comprehensive health service providers.
- *Partnering with Communities:* DVS' *Theater of War* project, led by Public Artist in Residence Bryan Doerries, is a two-year collaborative project with the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the Brooklyn Public Library. In 2017, the project has completed 28 performances and engaged over 1,100 people through stage readings of ancient Greek plays that serve as a catalyst for town hall discussions about the challenges faced by service members, veterans, their caregivers and families.

Overall, the great majority of participants indicate that the events are impactful for them. For example:

- 98% of attendees report that the events are at least somewhat engaging and 80% attest that they are relevant to their own lives.
- Attendees also believe that these events will make them at least somewhat more likely to attend other cultural events (97%), participate in other activities in the community (94%), talk about difficult topics (91%), and seek help for themselves or someone else if necessary (85%).
- Of particular importance, the large majority of attendees report feeling at least somewhat more connected to other people at the event (92%) and in their community in general (89%).
- Most attendees also note at least somewhat of an increase in their access to community resources (76%).

In 2018, the project is projected to complete 35 or more performances by year end.

- As a member and leading model of the Senator Elizabeth Dole Foundation's *Hidden Heroes* Initiative, the WHCR team has ensured that our New York City military and veteran caregivers are aware of and connected to comprehensive mental health services tailored to their needs and strengths. In spring 2017, DVS successfully hosted an event and engaged over

60 military and veterans caregivers to ensure that those serving in the shadows receive the assistance they deserve. In February 2018, DVS successfully hosted a Military Caregiver Convening engaging 26 leaders who represented the diverse New York City caregiver community. They contributed greatly to the conversation of what is currently being done for caregivers in New York City and initiatives that DVS can create to better support their journey.

- *Acting Early:* Through the WHCR team's community outreach efforts at satellite offices, VA Vet Centers, NYC Borough President Offices, student veterans at colleges/universities, faith based organizations, community forums and speaking engagements, DVS has engaged with nearly 6,300 individuals since September 2016 inception.
- *Using Data Better:* Through a collaboration with The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA), the WHCR team hosted a Virtual Implementation Academy on "Advancing Suicide Prevention Best Practices in Peer Support" (SPPEER) for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF). During this conference, DVS convened 25 mental health service providers in a conversation on peer-based suicide prevention efforts and methods to enhance collaboration and the use of data/technical assistance from SAMHSA in New York City. As a part of this process, SAMHSA's SMVF Technical Assistance Center committed to helping NYC help track our outcomes related to the vital role that peer support plays in preventing suicide.
- *Strengthen Government's Ability to Lead:* In order to create long-term systems change, the Mayor's Office, City Council, City agencies, community partners, and other branches of government are coming together to advance the goals of *ThriveNYC*. Mayor Bill de Blasio established the NYC Mental Health Council in March 2016, bringing together City agencies to work on advancing mental wellness and managing *ThriveNYC* initiatives. DVS is a member of the Mental Health Council, which meets quarterly and serves as a vehicle for harnessing resources from multiple agencies and sectors to achieve identified shared goals including: 1) Building a Culture for Mental Health, 2) Improving the Workforce, and 3) Addressing Substance Misuse.

### **City Employment, Education, Entrepreneurship, Events & Engagement (CE5)**

The Department of Veterans' Services has achieved a great deal in facilitating ease of access with all levels of government. DVS is improving access to veteran benefits by placing Community Outreach Specialists to serve as a direct link between the community in each borough and DVS by providing the human element of one-on-one support. Community Outreach Specialists are trained to connect veterans and their families to trusted resources available to them from the City, State, and Federal governments. Deployed to the five boroughs, Specialists create a citywide presence, and take information on programs and services to veterans in their community through collaborative partnership with host sites, with six sites across five boroughs already open for business.

In calendar year 2017, DVS engaged with over 5,740 veterans across the City at over 280 outreach events with an audience reach of almost 6,700. This includes the assistance of over

1,700 veterans and family members one-on-one both at our main office at 1 Centre Street and satellite offices across the five boroughs. CE5 Outreach specialists also provided over 40 Community Briefings on behalf of the agency, as well as connected and engaged with over 600 stakeholders within the larger NYC Veteran community.

In addition, DVS is executing a strategy for recruiting and connecting veterans and their families to city careers, services and resources through a phased action plan aimed at 1) upgrading the DVS website for direct access to City job opportunities; 2) collaborating with DCAS City-wide Recruitment/*WorkForce 1* and the public/private sectors to identify HR best practices; 3) standardizing City-wide intake forms to foster self-identification of veterans & families, and 4) engaging with the veteran business community to enhance business and procurement opportunities for veteran business owners and entrepreneurs.

In the area of entrepreneurship, DVS continues to identify challenges and opportunities within the NYC veteran business community. The many challenges identified include a lack of mentoring, networking, and access to procurement opportunities. DVS is committed to meeting these challenges and is collaborating with the private sector towards the creation of a “New York City Veteran Business Coalition (NYC-VBC).” This coalition of business leaders, veteran entrepreneurs and businesses, not for profit, and government agencies, slated to launch later this year, plans to come together to improve procurement opportunities, business creation and expansion, human talent acquisition, and access to capital for veterans.

DVS regularly engages with the Veterans Advisory Board, or VAB. Appointed by the Mayor and Council Speaker, the VAB is strategically selected to sustain a diverse range of service backgrounds, community engagement interests, and professional expertise to help facilitate dialogue with the New York City veterans’ community. DVS is currently compiling candidates for the next round of VAB appointments.

I encourage everyone to access the VAB 2017 End of Year Report and meeting minutes, available on the DVS website, which provides a series of 2017’s veterans’ highlights at the City level, as well as some policy and information gathering recommendations to the City Council and City of New York. I greatly appreciate the work which went into this document, as it reflects the passion and deep commitment towards moving forward the interests and improving the lives of NYC veterans and their families.

### **Strengthening Communication & Partnerships**

The agency has made tremendous strides in utilizing multiple platforms to facilitate communication between the veteran’s community, larger New York City population and municipal government. Since September 2016, the New York City Department of Veterans’ Services expanded its outreach to constituents in a variety of ways, including speaking events, generating content, securing media coverage, engaging social media audiences and reaching diverse audiences through print materials.

In accordance with Local Law 42, DVS conducts annual trainings for established liaisons within City agencies to advise veteran employees of applicable military benefits, services and personnel

policies. The latest training occurred in August 2017, and DVS conducts quarterly check-in calls with these liaisons.

DVS is committed to seeking out new avenues for collaboration and cross-sector initiatives to leverage the strengths and support the needs of New York City's veterans and their families. During Fleet Week 2017, DVS launched a mentoring initiative which brings together 25 different service providers in an effort to collectively identify and address the peer to peer needs of veterans and their families. In addition, we are concluding a listening tour as part of the *Veterans on Campus* (VOC) Initiative, a collaborative of post-secondary institutions and education experts who aim to share best practices and create new opportunities that will enhance the student veteran experience here in New York City.

The department is actively building upon the pioneering work led by the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice and its Task Force on Behavioral Health and the Criminal Justice System. For example, DVS is working with our partners in the New York City Department of Corrections (DOC), the VA, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and legal services organizations to help stand up a veterans only housing unit on Rikers Island. This unit, staffed by veterans, will provide access to legal, therapeutic, and peer mentoring resources to aid in the rehabilitation of veterans incarcerated at Rikers.

Additionally, DVS continues its partnership with the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA), the New York City Public Administrator's Office, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and local Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) to ensure proper burials for unclaimed, indigent veterans. Together, and thanks to the generosity of a small number of local funeral homes, over 450 indigent veterans have been given proper burials over the past decade, including 79 veterans in CY2017 alone.

### **Information and Technological Advances**

In 2016, the Department of Veterans' Services conducted its first accounting of the veteran population in New York City. Using American Community Survey and VetPop 2014 data, extrapolations from New York State National Guard and reserve strengths, and estimates of non-federally qualified veterans, the Department delivered the first accurate veterans population estimates, as well as demographic and geographic information. This work was recently recognized by GovTech, which awarded Chief Information Officer Venkat Motupalli the "Best of New York City award in Data Analytics." DVS was one of only 7 City agencies and offices – out of 135 – to win this award. We encourage everyone to visit the DVS website to view the *NYC Veterans Maps*, which show the diversity and ubiquity of veterans in NYC neighborhoods, aggregated by income, era of service, age, race, education and employment.

Currently, the Department-wide customer relationship management (CRM) solution is now fully implemented, giving us a secure database of DVS engagements. We will continue to automate additional processes over time.

We are also working with the Mayor's Office of Operations to provide a method for veterans to self-identify using new City intake forms, which should launch in the first quarter of 2018.



DVS is proud to participate in the latest Preliminary Mayor's Management Report (PMMR), highlighting the following during the first four months of Fiscal Year 2018 (July-October 2017):

- *57 homeless veterans found permanent homes through the Veteran Peer Coordinator (VPC) program*, an innovative new model for veterans helping fellow veterans navigate the challenging process of finding and securing housing in New York City.
- *DVS provided direct homelessness prevention assistance for 173 veterans during the reporting period*. This included a combination of veterans calling and visiting DVS for assistance and proactive aftercare calls to formerly homeless veterans that were housed through the VPC program.
- As part of the pioneering *ThriveNYC* mental health roadmap, *DVS engaged 2,612 veterans and their families during the first four months of Fiscal 2018. As a result of these interactions, DVS assisted 1,351 veterans and their families with access to resources during the reporting period.*

Finally, we are excited to note that the launch of *VetConnectNYC*, an innovative online platform that will connect veterans with a constellation of over 80 service providers across a variety of coverage areas, is anticipated in Spring 2018. In the interim, we encourage veterans to access and utilize the current incarnation of this platform, *NYServes*, which has been live since January 2015.

The City of New York, under the Mayor's leadership, has accomplished so much for our veterans. With the continued help of our partners in the New York City Council, the Mayor's Office, the federal VA, the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs and our veteran advocate allies, we look forward to continued growth and development towards improving the lives of NYC veterans and their families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify about DVS' budget for FY19. I am pleased to address any questions you may have.



This year, LiveOn NY will focus a great amount of effort to ensuring the city's model senior center budget process accurately and efficiently takes the full spectrum of needs of providers into consideration. The model budget process must amount to a flexible, sustainable, and equitable amount of funding for all senior centers across the five boroughs.

We ask that City Council prioritize support for funding a truly model senior center budget, as well as a fully-funded system of senior services in all agencies in its March Response to the Mayor's Financial Plan. Further, as seniors represent every facet of this city, all agencies should reflect and ensure they are serving older New Yorkers with accessible services and supports.

In addition, LiveOn NY also joins a coalition of human service sector agencies to strongly support the following agency-wide investments in FY19 for the human service sector:

- Going forward, include trend factor/cost escalation formula (including cost-of-living adjustments) in all new human service procurements for the duration of the contract
- Develop a framework to increase all HHS contracts and all new procurements up to minimums detailed below:
  - 15% indirect cost rate
  - 37% fringe rate (including a 15% increase for employee health insurance)
  - 10% increase for occupancy/program space costs
  - 10% increase to casualty and liability insurance<sup>3</sup>

LiveOn NY looks forward to working with City Council, the Department for the Aging, all city agencies and the Administration to make New York a better place to age through a strong network of community-based services.

*LiveOn NY's members provide the core, community-based services that allow older adults to thrive in their communities. With a base of more than 100 community-based organizations serving at least 300,000 older New Yorkers annually. Our members provide services ranging from senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, affordable senior housing with services, elder abuse prevention services, caregiver supports, case management, transportation, and NORCs. LiveOn NY advocates for increased funding for these vital services to improve both the solvency of the system and the overall capacity of community-based service providers.*

*LiveOn NY administers a citywide outreach program that supports seniors in communities where benefits are most underutilized. This program educates thousands of older adults, including those who are homebound, about food assistance options, as well as screens and enrolls those who are eligible for SNAP and SCRIE/DRIE.*

*LiveOn NY is also proud to administer the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program for the entire state, which works to prevent Medicare fraud and its associated healthcare expenses. SMP is modeled around recruiting and actively engaging senior volunteers to promote peer counseling, education and assistance on how to protect, detect, and report Medicare fraud. SMPs empower beneficiaries to reduce healthcare costs caused by errors, abuse, and fraud.*

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<sup>3</sup> Nonprofit Resiliency Committee (NRC)





Making New York a better place to age

**New York City Council  
Committee on Veterans, Chair, Council Member Deutsch  
March 12, 2018  
Preliminary Budget and Oversight Hearing**

LiveOn NY thanks Veterans Chair Deutsch and the rest of the committee for the opportunity to testify on the ways in which the city can better support older New Yorkers. LiveOn NY also thanks Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Johnson, Director Hartzog of the Office of Management and Budget, Commissioner Corrado of the Department for the Aging, and the entire City Council for their consideration of senior's needs as the FY19 budget process moves forward.

With a base of more than 100 community-based organizations that serve over 300,000 older New Yorkers annually, LiveOn NY's members provide core services that allow older adults to thrive in their communities, including senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, affordable senior housing, elder abuse prevention services, caregiver supports, transportation, NORCs and case management.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 50% of New York veterans are over the age of 65, with the second highest cohort of veterans ranging from ages 55 to 64.<sup>1</sup> These statistics alone show the inextricable link between senior services and the needs of New York's veterans. Just as these older veterans benefited our nation during their previous time of service, the older adult population in New York continues to enhance our communities through countless hours of volunteerism, civic engagement, and local economic support.

Despite the local impact seniors have in communities, there are many challenges that an older adult may face. For example, a higher percentage of veterans who participate in SNAP nutritional services are older veterans, showing nutritional needs among this cohort.<sup>2</sup> While SNAP is one effective tool in combatting hunger, it is important to note that Department for the Aging services also represent a unique opportunity to ensure older veterans' needs are met. Borne out of the Older American's Act, senior centers offer free, nutritious congregate meals to over 55,000 seniors each day. Beyond congregate meals, senior centers and the Department for the Aging network offers case management, mental health services, home-delivered meals, fitness programs, and opportunities for socialization that an older veteran could choose to utilize to enrich their later years.

Despite the incredible benefits of DFTA services, this system that serves a growing population of older New Yorkers remains woefully underfunded. While last year's \$22.8 million in baselined funding represents a much-needed investment, numerous needs remain to ensure seniors do not fall through the cracks and service providers can adequately pay staff and improve outdated capital.

To reach the full potential of this system and support older New Yorker's of all backgrounds, veterans included, priority must continue to be placed on funding for these discreet services. Each DFTA program is a critical piece of the continuum of services needed to allow older adults to remain in their homes and communities, as well as to support family caregivers.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www2.census.gov/library/infographics/2015/comm/vets/ny-vets.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/SNAPVeterans2013.pdf>



## **NYC Veterans Alliance**

**[www.nycveteransalliance.org](http://www.nycveteransalliance.org)**

**[www.ourveterans.nyc](http://www.ourveterans.nyc)**

Testimony by

Corey Ortega  
Director of Civic and Government Affairs  
NYC Veterans Alliance

**Committee on Veterans  
Preliminary Budget Hearing**

March 12, 2018

Good Afternoon, and thank you to Chair Deutsch and the Committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Corey Ortega and I am Director of Civic & Government Affairs for the NYC Veterans Alliance, a member-driven, grassroots policy advocacy and community-building organization that advances veterans and families as civic leaders. I am presenting testimony on behalf of our members who are active stakeholders in our advocacy.

The NYC Veterans Alliance was a key advocacy voice in the creation of the Department of Veterans' Services as an independent agency, and we have been the premiere community voice advocating to grow DVS's budget to the current \$4.5 million allotted for FY 2019. Our membership strongly supports our continued work to set high expectations for the role of DVS in NYC and beyond, and there is much to be optimistic about as DVS continues to build a staff of impressive professionals and to continue its impactful work like the tracking and coordination of care and permanent housing for homeless veterans. But there is much more work still to be done. We make therefore make the following recommendations for DVS's FY 2019 budget:

- 1. DVS must have an Agency Chief Contracting Officer (ACCO).** As we have in previous testimonies before the Veterans Committee, we strongly urge the Council to allocate funding in DVS's budget for a dedicated ACCO with expertise in the city's contracting and procurement processes. The delays that have taken place over the last two years in bringing VetConnectNYC under DVS management would likely have been mitigated by in-house contracting and procurement expertise, and the city should avoid future delays with this program and others.
- 2. DVS should oversee discretionary funds for veterans' services.** We also again strongly advocate for the discretionary funds awarded by NYC Council Members to community organizations serving veterans and families to be managed by a DVS ACCO instead of by agencies without the same level of expertise, relationships, and sense of urgency that DVS has in our community.
- 3. Veterans Employment Pay for Success Program should have robust metrics for success, including independent oversight.** The \$125,000 projected in the FY 2019 budget for the VA-orchestrated Veterans Employment Pay for Success Program proposes a social impact investment pilot for NYC, with payment by NYC for employment outcomes for veterans with PTSD. This is an interesting new model for serving veterans

that we believe should be explored, but we urge this Committee to ensure that robust metrics—including independent oversight—for the program's outcomes be put in place prior to any commitment of city funding.

4. **DVS should continue refining its reporting of metrics for success.** NYC taxpayers have invested a great deal in this new and growing agency, with highly paid expert staff and innovative new programs. We strongly urge this Committee to call for DVS to continue refining its reporting of qualitative data and focusing on cost-effective delivery of information and services.

We look forward to continued dialogue and partnership with DVS as it continues to grow and work toward serving the NYC veterans community.

On behalf of the NYC Veterans Alliance, I thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Pending your questions, this concludes my testimony.





# Bronx County American Legion



1279 Edison Ave – Bronx NY 10461

Ms. Vicky Bello

February 16, 2018

Coordinator Veterans Program - TDF

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 801

New York, New York 10018-6507

Dear Vicky Bello,

On behalf of Bronx County American Legion, it's veterans, and family, we want to say thank you to the City Council Veterans Committee and Councilmembers for their support of the TDF Veterans Theatergoing Program.

Through this program, our veterans and family member were able to attend the performance of the Broadway play, "*Beautiful*" on Sunday, January 21, 2018.

For many of our veterans, it was their first time seeing a Broadway show.

What made this experience so special was the "meet and greet" at the end of the performance. The cast was so kind to answer all our questions. Some even took a photo with them.

We hope you will continue to support this program because of the wonderful opportunity that it provides for our city's veterans!

You know it made an impact when a month after the event, they are still talking about it!!

I advised my group to take advantage of the free TDF membership, so they can continue attending the theater at reduced costs.

Sincerely,

Joseph Mondello

Past County Commander



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tdf.org

Good Afternoon. I wish to thank the City Council Veteran's Committee and the Councilmembers for their support of the TDF Veterans Theatergoing Program. Through this program, I had the opportunity to see *Miss Saigon* with Samaritan Village Veterans Program in December. It was the first time seeing a Broadway show in years.

What made this experience great was helping me with socializing again, sober and developing a new hobby. I believe theater gives veterans a chance to heal from their past demons and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. To make identification with story lines, and interact with the audience. It is important to know we're not alone. We feel as though we're part of society. It is a healthy hobby and an activity new to a lot of veterans. Overall, it is a good, positive experience.

I took advantage of the free TDF membership, so I can continue attending the theater at reduced costs. We hope you will continue to support this program because of the wonderful opportunity that it provides for our city's veterans!

Mr. Eddie McDonough  
Samaritan Village  
March 12, 2018





December 18, 2017

**TDF Launches Program To Provide Veterans With Free Admissions to Broadway Shows**  
by BWW News Desk



TDF, the not-for-profit service organization dedicated to bringing the power of the performing arts to everyone has partnered with City Council member Eric Ulrich, Chair of the Committee on Veterans to launch a new pilot program, TDF Veterans Theatregoing Program, which will provide admission, at no cost, to New York City's former servicemen and women of all ages who have served in any branch of the armed forces. The program was launched yesterday with 50 NYC Veterans attending a matinee performance of *Miss Saigon*. Thanks to funding from the New York City Council, TDF will offer a limited number of free tickets to Broadway shows, which will be distributed through partnering veterans groups. In addition, talks with veterans who are working with each production will be offered to help build a sense of community with former service members in attendance. TDF will also offer complimentary TDF Memberships to any participating veterans so they can continue their theatergoing at greatly reduced costs.

To date, seven Broadway shows have committed to providing tickets at low cost for this pilot program. The program launched yesterday at a performance of *Miss Saigon* on Sunday, December 17 at 4pm. Subsequent performances include: *Beautiful* on Sunday, January 21 at 7pm; *Come From Away* on Thursday, January 25 at 7pm; *School of Rock* on Monday, January 29, 7pm; *Chicago* on Sunday, February 4 at 2:30pm; *A Bronx Tale* on May 16 at 7pm; *Kinky Boots* on Saturday, May 19 at 2pm.

"I am proud to support TDF's Veterans Theatregoing Program, which will give our nation's heroes access to some of the most popular shows on Broadway," said Councilman Eric Ulrich, Chair of the Veterans Committee. "Though we will never be able to fully repay the sacrifices of our brave men and women in uniform, this initiative serves as a small token of appreciation to New York City's veterans. I'd like to thank TDF, and all participating groups, for turning this vision into a reality."

"We're thankful to Councilman Ulrich for offering us the opportunity to be able to serve this wonderful group of New Yorkers," said Victoria Bailey, TDF's Executive Director. "This pilot program helps solidify our ongoing commitment to make sure that everyone in New York City has access to the performing arts."

"We are thrilled by the opportunity to welcome more of our city's veterans to theatre," said Lisa Carling, Director of TDF Accessibility Programs, "and heartened by the generosity of the Broadway community in supporting this effort."

"We at SAGE are proud to partner our SAGEVets initiative with TDF's Pilot Veterans Program championed by Councilman Eric Ulrich," said Shawn Nixon, SAGEVets Program Coordinator. "Many of our LGBT elders face social isolation, which can lead to a decline in physical and mental health. This program will be instrumental in enriching the lives of our LGBT vets through music, performance, and social opportunities. We look forward to the many different benefits that this partnership will bring."

Among the organizations TDF is partnering with to help identify interested veterans are: Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders, SAGEVets; Borden Avenue Veterans Residence; CUNY Student Veterans; DE-CRUIT/Bedlam Outreach; Easter Seals; Jericho Project; Samaritan Village; Sam Young American Legion Post #602; Services for the Underserved, Veterans Division; and Veterans of America, Patriot House.

TDF is a not-for-profit service organization for the performing arts, dedicated to bringing the power of the performing arts to everyone. Founded in 1968, TDF's mission is to sustain live theatre and dance by engaging and cultivating a broad and diverse audience and eliminating barriers to attendance.

TDF fulfills its mission with a variety of programs that expand access, cultivate communities and support the makers of the performing arts. Best known for its theatre going programs (including the TKTS by TDF Discount Booths and TDF Membership Program), TDF's accessibility (including open captioned, audio described and Autism Friendly performances), school (serving over 10,000 New York City student annually), community engagement and information programs - as well as the TDF Costume Collection Rental and Research Programs - have introduced millions of people to the theatre and helped make the unique experience of theatre available to everyone.

TDF envisions a world where the transformative experience of attending live theatre and dance is essential, relevant, accessible and inspirational. To learn more about TDF, go to: [www.tdf.org](http://www.tdf.org).



**New York City Council**

**New York City Council Budget and Oversight Hearings on The Fiscal Year 2019  
Preliminary Budget, The Preliminary Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2019-2022 and The  
Fiscal 2018 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report**

**The Committee on Veterans**

**Honorable Chaim M. Deutsch, Chair**

**T2018-1307 – Preliminary Budget Hearing Veterans**

**March 12, 2018**

Testimony by:

Joe Hunt

Director – Veterans Mental Health Coalition

Administered by Mental Health Association of New York City, Inc.

Thank you, Council Member Deutch, and members of the Committee on Veterans, for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding mental health services for NYC-area veterans. My name is Joe Hunt, I am an Army veteran and I serve as Director of the Veterans Mental Health Coalition (VMHC) of New York City, which is administered by The Mental Health Association of New York City, Inc. (MHA-NYC).

For more than 50 years, MHA-NYC has provided direct services, public education and advocacy to address the needs of New Yorkers living with behavioral health needs. In addition to overseeing the Veterans Mental Health Coalition of New York City (VMHC), MHA-NYC provides training and technical assistance, as well as back up call center support, for the Veterans Crisis Line, which connects veterans, their families and caregivers with qualified Department of Veterans Affairs counselors who can respond effectively to crises and other emotional health concerns.

MHA-NYC and the VMHC supported the creation of the New York City Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to meet the needs of New York City's more than 210,000 veterans<sup>1</sup>, and applaud the Department's comprehensive approach to addressing the mental health and emotional well-being of veterans through its Core4 Whole Health Model. This innovative model provides an integrated approach to mental health through its attention to the needs of veterans with clinically significant behavioral health conditions, as well as supporting their resilience by helping veterans become connected with psychosocial supports, such as peer mentors and social engagement opportunities. This integrated approach is in keeping with current best practices in behavioral health, as it has been demonstrated that the most positive outcomes occur when supports are able to consider multiple domains of functioning, including social, emotional and mental health.

The Veterans Mental Health Coalition of New York City's mission is to improve the access to, and the quality of, behavioral health services for service members, veterans, their families and caregivers.

Our membership is a diverse group of over 850 members representing more than 370 organizations. Nearly 80% of our members are civilian, non-mental health providers from housing, legal services, academic institutions; as well as City, State and Federal agencies who seek information and training about the culture and unique needs of veterans and their families in order to become more effective in delivering their services.

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<sup>1</sup> NYC Mayor's Press Office November 11, 2017

We believe the importance of the non-mental health providers' role in veterans mental health treatment and of the information and training the VMHC provides to our membership of largely civilian, non-mental health providers has been overlooked in the past. Reports by the RAND Corporation and the recent findings of NY Serves, soon to be called VetConnect support our contention.

The RAND Corporation study indicated that among New York State service members return to civilian life:

- 22% of returning veterans have a probable diagnosis of PTSD or major depression;
- 34% of veterans self-indicated a mental health need for therapy, or substance abuse treatment; however,
- Only 1/3 of these service members in need sought mental health treatment.

A recent briefing by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), which currently oversees NY Serves, indicated that veterans contacting its network requested an average of four types of services, including: Housing, Employment, Legal services and Benefits. Less than 2% of callers requested healthcare services; behavioral health services area subset of the less than 2%.

Based on these reports, it is reasonable to extrapolate that approximately 67 out of every 100 veterans with mental health needs are seeing non-mental health providers. These non-clinical providers require the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively identify and address mental health needs.

In the coming year, VMHC is focusing its efforts to establish quantifiable goals and will focus our training in areas that we believe have the greatest potential impact to improve the access to, and the quality of, behavioral health services for service members, veterans, their families and caregivers.

At a minimum, non-mental health providers need a basic understanding of military culture, how to identify signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, and techniques to engage at-risk veterans to ensure that they are connected to culturally and clinically competent sources of care.

In FY19, VMHC plans to launch a training series specifically targeted to increasing access to mental health and substance abuse resources for the majority of veterans who have gone untreated. Recognizing the opportunity of non-mental health providers to leverage their trusted

relationships to identify veterans who may need support, engage them in a supportive conversation and connect veterans to a mental health partner; we will launch a training series that includes:

- Military Cultural Competency;
- Mental Health First Aid;
- Strength-Based Engagement; and
- Suicide Prevention.

To encourage non-mental health providers to complete this training series, the MHA-NYC will offer a Certificate of Completion acknowledging the providers' successful completion of the series that provides program graduates with a credential that will enhance their professional status among current and future employers that serve the military connected community.

In addition, MHA-NYC will continue to work with the current administrators of NY Serves to support its efforts to identify veterans with behavioral health needs and connect them to qualified providers throughout NYC. In particular, MHA-NYC is working with NY Serves administrators to determine effective ways to work collaboratively to integrate into its programming the services of NYC Well, the city's front door to behavioral health services that uses state of the art telephone, text and web based technologies to respond to the mental health needs of tens of thousands of New Yorkers, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and which is administered by MHA-NYC. We look forward to its continued work with DVS to support its efforts to meet the mental health challenges of veterans and their families.

MHA-NYC and the VMHC are grateful for the New York City Council's leadership and commitment to addressing the needs of New York City veterans and their families, including their behavioral health needs. We greatly appreciate the DVS Commissioner, Dr. Loree Sutton, for her leadership and dedication to meeting the integrated needs of veterans and their families. MHA-NYC and VMHC looks forward to continued work with the Council and the current administration to continue to make New York City a place where active duty military, veterans, their families and caregivers can thrive.

Good Afternoon. I wish to thank the City Council Veteran's Committee and the Councilmembers for their support of the TDF Veterans Theatergoing Program. Through this program, I had the opportunity to see *Miss Saigon* with Samaritan Village Veterans Program in December. It was the first time seeing a Broadway show in years.

What made this experience great was helping me with socializing again, sober and developing a new hobby. I believe theater gives veterans a chance to heal from their past demons and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. To make identification with story lines, and interact with the audience. It is important to know we're not alone. We feel as though we're part of society. It is a healthy hobby and an activity new to a lot of veterans. Overall, it is a good, positive experience.

I took advantage of the free TDF membership, so I can continue attending the theater at reduced costs. We hope you will continue to support this program because of the wonderful opportunity that it provides for our city's veterans!





## **Remarks of the Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center to the New York City Council Committee on Veterans**

**March 12, 2018**

Good afternoon. My name is Jonathan Weinstein and I want to thank Chairman Deutch and the members of the NYC Council's Committee on Veterans for the opportunity to present testimony today on behalf of Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center.

As someone who is devoted to helping veterans who are experiencing distress, self-destructive and suicidal behavior, I am keenly aware of the challenges we face in providing veterans the support they need.

My perspective on these challenges is informed by the intensive training I received on Samaritans 24-hour suicide prevention hotline—which was as comprehensive, thoughtful, and effective as any of my studies to become a clinical psychologist—and my current role as the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Department of Veterans Affairs Hudson County Health Care System.

The most recent statistics by the CDC show that suicide--the tragic and ultimate symbol of untreated mental health--continues to increase in this country, causing more deaths each year than automobile accidents, as many fatalities as AIDS and homicides combined.

But even more alarming, is the rate of veteran suicide in New York (29.1 per 100,000 people) which is almost twice the national average and three times that of the state's (10.6 per 100,000). This tells us that--no matter what we're doing--we have to do better, and more!

My personal experience with the VA mirrors much of what I learned at Samaritans; which is, it doesn't matter how many programs you offer, how much training people get, how much information is made available--If those you serve do not feel comfortable with what you offer, if they do not feel listened to; you are not going to get very far.

Basically, you can't prescribe how someone else should access help.

An example of this is the Veterans Hotline, which is a valuable service designed to help veterans who may be experiencing a crisis, but can require the caller to disclose their name and location--thereby raising the risk that police could be called to initiate a rescue; which dissuades some veterans in need from even making the call.

This is something Samaritans realized over 60 years ago when it developed the world's first suicide prevention hotline, which is completely confidential; thereby providing those who are depressed and in crisis, who are most impacted by stigma, who are resistant to seeking help and are concerned about losing their right to make their own

decisions—with an alternative to 911, a safe place they can call in confidence 24 hours a day.

Which just reinforces the need for providing our current and retired veterans with *multiple points of access*, a cross-section of choices and alternatives that they can choose from when seeking help that fits their own individual needs, comfort and values, utilizing as broad a spectrum as possible of different approaches and methodology—from humanistic and faith-based to clinical.

This concept of an enhanced “caring community,” was coined by Samaritans when it was working closely with the epidemiologists at the University of Rochester Medical School that were charged with evaluating the US Air Force’s suicide prevention plan—possibly the most comprehensive and successful so far in this country.

The important lessons taken from the Air Force program was the need to impact the culture and its idea of helping, from top to bottom, to train everybody who came in contact with soldiers in sensitivity, awareness, communications and assessment and to engage every community partner in their environment to take an active role in providing care and support.

And that is the suggestion we would make today. Expand NYC's helping network! Provide alternatives to the standard programs and services that are available! Engage those community partners that have not been included in previous efforts!

This includes many programs and services, and certainly Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center which, in spite of urging from this City Council over the years, has still not been included on either a consultation or service delivery level by the City in addressing the needs of our veterans.

It is also an example of why Samaritans has to come back to the City Council each year and ask you to restore our suicide hotline funding that was cut by the Mayor (but that’s another story).

Strengthen NYC’s Safety Net for Veterans, provide more options and opportunities to get help and save lives.

Thank you.

The Samaritans of New York  
On behalf of Alan Ross, Executive Director





**New York City Council Hearing  
Monday, March 12, 2018, 1:00 p.m.  
Testimony RE: Preliminary Budget for DVS and the Veterans Initiative**

Good afternoon. My name is Jackeline Solivan. I am a Senior Staff Attorney with the Veterans Justice Project at Bronx Legal Services, a part of Legal Services NYC. Legal Services NYC is the largest provider of free civil legal services in the nation with offices in all five boroughs where we serve over 90,000 New Yorkers annually. The Veterans Justice Project (VJP) represents low-income veterans, active duty service members and their families who are in need of civil legal services in the areas of housing law, public benefit eligibility, family law and other essential needs. We run a city wide legal hotline for veterans and staff multiple legal clinics at the Department of Veterans Affairs and other facilities throughout the city. We provide free legal services to well over a thousand of New York City's veterans, active duty service members and their families every year.

We thank the City Council for inviting us to testify at this Preliminary Budget hearing for the Veterans Committee. We also want to thank the Veterans Committee for their past support of our Veterans Justice Project. Without the funding we have received, we would not have been able to provide legal services to such a large number of the City's veteran population.

Low-income veterans facing civil legal problems often cannot afford to hire an attorney, yet they are at a severe disadvantage without one. The Veterans Justice Project works to ensure that veterans receive the benefit of counsel when tackling civil legal matters. The vast majority of the veterans we represent are in eviction proceedings. We provide lawyers to veterans at risk of becoming homeless because we believe that the best way to end veteran homelessness is to prevent it from happening in the first place.

Here are a few stories of the veterans and families I have represented in housing court.

Ms. G is a disabled veteran who served in Afghanistan, and suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) stemming from her service. She has lived in her rent-stabilized apartment for nearly a decade and had a Section 8 voucher. When Ms. G retained Legal Services NYC, she owed over \$16,000.00 in back rent, was at risk of being evicted and being homeless. With our advocacy, the New York City Housing Authority adjusted Ms. G's Section 8 subsidy to properly reflect her income. We then negotiated with the landlord's attorney to reduce the back rent owed, and assisted Ms. G in applying for a rental arrears grant. As a result of our assistance, Ms. G was able to remain in her rent-stabilized apartment and keep her Section 8 voucher. She was also able to focus on improving her mental health instead of dealing with the stresses of a housing court proceeding. She has now re-entered the workforce.

**Legal Services NYC**  
40 Worth Street, Suite 606, New York, NY 10013  
Phone: 646-442-3600 Fax: 646-442-3601 [www.LegalServicesNYC.org](http://www.LegalServicesNYC.org)  
**Raun J. Rasmussen**, Executive Director  
**Michael D. Young**, Board Chair

Another client, Mr. V, is a veteran who served in Iraq. He was living in a rent stabilized apartment with his wife and three minor children, all under the age of 10. With funds from the GI bill, Mr. V was able to pay his rent, but once his studies ended so did the funding from the GI bill. Mr. V struggled to find employment and fell into rental arrears. With an eviction scheduled for the very next day, which would leave Mr. V and his family homeless in the middle of winter, he sought assistance from the VJP. Our office was able to secure an emergency grant to pay the back rent, stopping the eviction. In addition, we negotiated waiving some of the back rent owed with the landlord, thus, keeping Mr. V and his family in their home.

Mr. C, a veteran who had suffered a stroke and respiratory problems and was then diagnosed with cancer that led to amputation of his leg after the cancer spread. Mr. C had terrible conditions in his Bronx apartment, including a severe mold infestation which exacerbated his respiratory issues and may have contributed to his cancer, according to his doctor. With the VJP's help, Mr. C went to court and secured an agreement by the landlord to cut Mr. C's rent in half and to repair his apartment. However, the landlord failed to complete the repairs and Mr. C was forced to return to court. Facing further court action, the landlord finally repaired Mr. C's apartment by deep cleaning behind the premises' walls to treat the mold. With our advocacy Mr. C was also awarded a Special Exit and Prevention Supplement (SEPS) voucher to assist him in paying his rent. Mr. C can now focus on his health without worrying about the conditions in his apartment.

Our veterans should not have to face a rationing of civil legal services. They have sacrificed for all of us. We have a duty to ensure that veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled, including proper medical care, access to safe affordable housing, a good education, as well as access to justice. I am proud to represent veterans and I urge the City Council to continue supporting civil legal services funding for veterans.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to testify. Legal Services NYC looks forward to working with you and the administration to ensure that New York City is able to best support our veterans in need.

Jackeline K. Solivan  
Senior Staff Attorney, Veterans Justice Project  
Bronx Legal Services  
Legal Services NYC

Good afternoon members of the Committee on Veterans. My name is Coco Culhane and I am the director of the Veteran Advocacy Project at the Urban Justice Center. We provide free legal services to low-income veterans and their families, with a focus on those living with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and substance use disorders.

The creation of a well-funded Department of Veterans Services has been a terrific step towards addressing all of the needs of New York's veteran population. As we all know, the VA cannot take care of every need and indeed fewer than 50% of veterans use the VA at all. Our city's department is poised to fill in the gaps—to provide both support and inspiration to the diverse service population of our city; from transitioning student veterans to single mothers juggling their roles as caregivers, providers, and servicemembers, to newly retired veterans of wars whose effects are still unveiling themselves. The city has services that each of those vets can benefit from. Yet over and over we see that one population of veterans is left out: those with less than honorable discharges. Many received these discharges due to the symptoms of traumatic injury—symptoms deemed misconduct by the military. They are nearly three times as likely to die by suicide, their discharge status is the second highest predictor of homelessness, and they spend more time in jails and prisons than their fellow veterans. The impact of a bad discharge on employment prospects is devastating. Simply put, these veterans are left behind. Further, this population's unique need continues to be left out of the City's Veterans Services Initiative.

The council funds legal providers, excellent legal providers, who do not specialize in veterans law or department of defense regulations. These programs are serving veterans but it is likely they would be serving them anyway—through HRA's right to counsel housing court initiative, through the state's vast Disability Advocacy Project funding for Social Security representation, or any number of other initiatives that many New Yorkers, veterans among them, rely on and use. Where is the funding for veterans law specifically? What I am about to say won't be popular: We don't need lawyers doing VA applications; we don't need *more* lawyers representing veterans in housing court. We need lawyers who can represent veterans in character of discharge determinations at the VA and before Department of Defense Review Boards. We need lawyers who can get veterans connected to the hundreds of thousands of federal dollars that they earned through their service: a lifetime of specialized health care; housing subsidies (desperately needed to survive in New York City), disability benefits that get them off of public assistance and SSI, vocational programs that restore confidence and sense of purpose, and for Post-9/11 veterans, over \$300,000 in education benefits alone. Of the Fiscal Year 2018 Designated Community-Based Organizations, every single entity except one has referred veterans to my office for discharge upgrades. Last spring, as our waitlist approached 650 names, we had to shut it down; we had to tell hundreds of veterans that we could not assist them. Despite training over 200 lawyers on how to do upgrade and COD cases, we knew we would never get to the cases of all these men and women.

This population needs primary care, employment assistance, and many of the programs that DVS is working to build. But it also needs specialized legal services. I urge the committee to examine what their veterans initiative dollars are actually accomplishing in the legal area. The veterans who are the most vulnerable and use the most local resources are also those who have the potential for one permanently life-changing legal win. A win that can not only open doors to care and employment but to healing.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/12/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jonathan Weinstein, PhD

Address: 22 Olmsted Rd, Scarsdale, NY 10583

I represent: Samuelson of NY Suicide Prevention Center

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-12-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Coco Culhane

Address: 40 Rector

I represent: Veteran Advocacy Project

Address: 40 Rector St.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jackeline K. Solivan

Address: 349 E. 149th St. 10th Fl. Bronx, NY 10451

I represent: Legal Services NYC

Address: 40 Worth St, New York, NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katelyn Hosey

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: LiveOn NY

Address: 49 W. 45<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/12/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joe Hunt

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Veterans Mental Health Coalition

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/12/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Towaki Komatsu

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER NICOLE  
LEMANA

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: DEPT OF VETS SERVICES

Address: 1 CENTRE ST, SUITE 2208

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: EDWARD M DONOUGH

Address: 327 W 43RD ST. SAMARITAN VETERANS PROGRAM

I represent: SAMARITAN DAYTOP VETERANS PROGRAM

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: COMMISSIONER LOREE SUTTON

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: DEPT OF VETERANS SERVICES

Address: 1 CENTRE ST, SUITE 2208

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JEFFREY ROTH

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: DEPT OF VET SERVICES

Address: 1 CENTRE STREET, SUITE 2208

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/12/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cory Osegga

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NYC Veterans Alliance

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/12/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ERIC HOWRY

Address: 1 CENTRE ST

I represent: DVS

Address: 1 CENTRE ST

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/12/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lisa Carling

Address: TDF 520 8th Ave

I represent: TDF Veterans Theatregoing Program

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/12/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mr Eddie McDonough

Address: Samaritan Village

I represent: TDF Veterans Theatregoing Program

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms