

**NYC Veterans Advisory Board
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mcgowanv@aol.com**

**STATEMENT OF
VINCENT M. McGOWAN, CHAIRMAN
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD**

BEFORE

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS**

**250 BROADWAY – 16TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

October 27, 2014

My name is Vincent McGowan and I am the Chairman of the city's Veterans Advisory Board (VAB). The VAB was chartered in 1987 under Local Law 53 to advise the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) on all matters concerning veterans. In 2002, Local Law 45 expanded the VAB from five to nine members: five appointed by the Mayor and four appointed by the City Council, with each Borough represented on the board. In 2006, Intro 233 enhanced the structure of the VAB and added annual reporting requirements. The first Chairman of the VAB was elected in 2008.

At a recent VAB meeting held on 9/16/14, a resolution was passed unanimously to keep the current Chairman & Vice Chairman on any future VAB entity, for one term - in a non voting capacity, so as to provide continuity & avoid the loss of the deep institutional memory.

First, I would like to express the VAB's appreciation to the Committee on Veterans for giving us the opportunity to comment on the future of relationships between our City and our community.

Over the years, the VAB has worked closely with the Mayor's Office and the City Council on a myriad of issues affecting today's veterans. It is hoped that by now, the old days of thinking that veterans are strictly a federal issue are over. Veterans also need local programs, and the revenues that can be realized by the city through veteran business initiatives and increased numbers of successful VA claims are hopefully a no-brainer at this point.

However, the VAB is cautious with supporting a change from our current successful relationship because of the current transition with a new Commissioner at MOVA, the temporary placement of MOVA's offices and the implications of this unfunded mandate during a delicate fiscal time.

- VAB believes that MOVA is already under-funded, and the fact that three trained veteran's claims counselors were recently not included in the budget and lost last month only adds to our concerns. **Where will these funds to create an entire agency come from?**
- What kind of changes and/or interruption in current MOVA services would occur if this legislation is passed?
- Why is there no inclusion of Reservists and National Guard who have been activated to serve in the military in the current definitions?

Further:

- VAB recommends adopting the State definition of a veteran for continuity.
- Further, we would recommend that new State OGS programs for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises also be included in Section 31-302.
- VAB recommends further study and revision of proposed legislation, through a subcommittee which would also include members of the Committee on Small Business.

Following are some of the issues that the Veteran Advisory Board has discussed & subsequently received action on with the prior administrations.

- VAB Recommended a review of MOVA that resulted in a change in leadership and the assignment of a Commissioner level position up from its traditional directors status.
- VAB recommended and helped implement the digital connectivity of the MOVA web site.
- VAB developed interest, support & public information for Veterans Courts
- VAB developed Mayoral support for keeping our VA treatment center at 23rd St. stopping the sale of the property to developers.
- VAB raised the administrations awareness of the importance of our treatment center at St Albans.
- VAB encouraged the administration to develop support for Jr. & Sr. ROTC programs in NYC education systems.
- VAB worked with MOVA to develop a process requiring NYC Agencies to designate a Veteran's liaison in all departments to work with MOVA on opportunities for our Veteran community.
- VAB increased communication within our community by bringing city wide Veteran leadership together & connecting the Boroughs.
- VAB worked with industry and not for profits to increase attention to the need for burial services for the veteran community including identifying unmarked graves.
- VAB met with Department of Consumer Affairs to address issues of permitting and Veteran preference for vending rights.
- VAB raised awareness throughout the community on the need to honor service and recognize the value of the Veteran Community in NYC.
- VAB helped MOVA develop its NYC Federal Priorities for Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs
- VAB has complied with all requirements as directed under the local law that created it.

In closing, the Veteran Advisory Board looks forward to further City Council review & development of a committee charged with reviewing the proposed legislation, recommending the inclusion of NYC small business services and to the completion of the process to include of Intro 314 into NYC last after we understand the ramifications it would present to our veterans and to the City of New York.

Thank you.

Attachments:

2013 Veterans Advisory Board Annual Report

2014 NYC Federal Priorities for MOVA

Mayor's 6/6/13 press release requiring city agencies to designate a Veteran's liaison

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, Attention Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

FROM: Vince McGowan, Chairman, Lee Covino – Vice Chairman

CC: Commissioner Terrance Holliday, Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs (MOVA)
Eric Ulrich, Chairman NYCC Veterans Committee
Board of Directors, Veteran Advisory Board (VAB)

DATE: January 30, 2014

RE: **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013**

The Advisory Board met all of its requirements as directed under the New York City Charter. Following are notes from the approved agenda & minutes.

May 5, 2013 meeting of the full board, attendance was taken, a quorum was present. Items covered include:

1. Congratulations to Queens Board member John Rowan on his reelection to the National President, Vietnam Veterans of America.
2. Discussion of the May '13 "Crain's" front page article outlining returning Veterans and how they will be cared for in the future. As our country reduces our commitment in foreign wars, NYS is estimated to receive 44,000 returning Veterans in 2014. It is not clear that NYC is ready for its share of these returning men & women. VAB will inform the 2014 NYC Council members.
3. A recognition was made of how our community has been affected by the storms of the winter and how local Veteran Organizations were a significant part of the recovery efforts. Local Veteran's Posts & Chapters were convenient centers of emergency aid in and around the city.
4. The growing VA claims backlog is not acceptable. The Board acknowledges that more needs to be done in order for the VA system to be able to address our communities' needs.

Veteran Service Officer availability for NYC Veterans is not adequate for the current Veteran population. There may be problems if the predictions of the number of returning serviceman and women are true.

5. A discussion of the request from NYS Senator Gregg Ball to support Senate Bill S 2803 and Assembly Bill A 7319 to amend NYS contract law in relation to state contract preference for service disabled veterans small businesses. Members will investigate individually and act accordingly. There is a statewide recognition of the need for this legislation supported by the VFW, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America.

6. There was a discussion of the expected January '14 move of Veteran's Hall located at 346 Broadway, 8th Fl. MOVA is working with Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) which has found space in the Municipal Building. There will be interim moves before the final location is completed. We discussed the invitations to a Candidates forum on Veterans' issues that were sent out to all candidates for Mayor on April 23, 2013. We will follow up. We discussed how we can get the word out about the NYC Veterans Employment Fair on May 28, 2013 at MOVA. All members will inform their groups. IAVA has the Rapid Response Referral Program (RRRP) in place. There will be more information on this program at our next meeting in early 2014.

7. A list of the 12 upcoming events for May was distributed. Members are requested to encourage their groups to attend these events.

June 19, 2013 Meeting of the full board, attendance was taken, quorum was present. Items covered were the distribution of the reappointment letters to NY VAB members.

1. We heard from our guest speaker, Ms. Betsy Fabricant on her report on service to the blind provider, Visions. Visions has a Veteran focused program for rehabilitation services, mobility training and independent living skills. Members were requested to inform their veterans groups, as these services may also be used by elderly veterans suffering from macular degeneration.

2. A discussion about archiving material in "Veteran's Hall" prior to the expected January '14 move; concluded that all individual units were to be responsible for their material. NYC will inform Veteran organizations through MOVA as the schedule to move Veteran Office space advances.

3. There was a discussion of the response from the military for producing events in NYC that recognize service. These events bring in revenue to hotel and tourist related businesses. The NYC Military Public Affairs Officers felt the Washington budget pinch. The NYC Veteran Community supported their efforts to involve military in our Veteran activities. There is a base

belief that NYC, as the media capital, can give the needs of our community the ability to get attention to our situations concerning service & service connected conditions. MOVA will send an updated VAB membership list as requested by members. Women Veterans' needs were the next discussion. The focus is on health care, the VA Women Veteran's Clinic at Brooklyn VA, family and child care issues. Black Veterans for Social Justice has 500 units of housing, which is a remarkable achievement. Brooklyn Bedford - Stuyvesant Veterans are looking to be more active in NYC Veterans affairs. We discussed how the VAB is expanding our influence in the community. The VAB is looking for sponsorship to supply the members with business cards & letterhead. Members proposed a "Veteran's Night" event with local unions and fraternal organizations.

September 26, 2013 Meeting of the full board, attendance taken, quorum was present.

1. Items covered were the update from Commissioner Holliday on the planned move from Veterans Hall". MOVA will show the floor plan for the new location at One Center St.
2. A discussion of the Proposed Int. 480-A, a bill that will establish a Veteran liaison program involving every agency within the City. Each agency head or commissioner will be required to appoint an employee as a liaison to Veterans. These liaisons will be trained by MOVA and will work with the office to ensure that Veterans' needs are addressed no matter if they reach out to MOVA or to an agency directly. The purpose is to expedite service according to Kelly Taylor, Legislative Attorney, Council on Committee on Veterans, NYCC.
3. A discussion of "NYC Veteran's Week" and the events that make it work will bring more attention to the needs of NYC Veterans. A working copy of the events for the week was distributed. Events range from school visits, to monument cleaning and education, to visits to local military bases.
4. There will be press conferences to explain the week to City residences, a patriots tour along with an arts & service celebration by the Veteran's Artists program. The Toys for Tots Program will be launched during this week.
5. MOVA has received a grant from Robin Hood to train Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) over the next 18 months starting Memorial Day. Workforce One, the employment arm of NYC, was discussed regarding their work with NYC Veterans. More information will be available later this year as these programs develop.
6. October 24th is the date for the celebration of Hispanic Culture in the Veteran's Community. The consensus is that there needs to be more interaction between The Veterans Community and the Hispanic Community. Information will be sent to all members for distribution and participation.

NYC Federal Priorities for MOVA 2014

Federal priorities should be in sync with those of the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs as our society continues to find a "partnered solution" to continue to reintegrate our newer veterans and aid our aging veterans of prior generations of service.

Veterans Administration:

- The VA must continue to dramatically reduce the volume of outstanding claims by the end of 2014.
- The VA must provide timely appointments and service for all eligible veterans seeking service. This is especially critical for veterans seeking mental health services, where the need is immediate, but the availability is unreasonably long.

Support Veterans' Organizations:

- Veterans' Organizations have historically been an integral facet of the reintegration process of our military veterans. There is a need to recognize those organizations providing services to veterans and to provide financial incentives to them for doing so. This suggestion, if implemented will assist the veteran and sustain these vital organizations.
- MOVA, with the assistance of the Robin Hood Foundation, has 3 VA accredited service officers, working outreach through the 5 boroughs. This program is effective, but will not be funded beyond July 2014. We should seek federal funding for similar positions at the mayoral agency level.

Employment

- Veterans should be recognized for their service and the skills. Veterans should receive credits and preferences where appropriate. Additionally, returning veterans with a skill and experience set should be entitled to waivers when seeking licenses commensurate with their skills and accomplishments. This should also apply with civil service testing.
- The federal government should embark on a campaign to encourage employers to recognize the carried skill sets of our returning veterans. These veterans are older and should not be regarded as not having supervisory, managerial or technical skills in areas where they are qualified.

- Historically, veterans have become successful entrepreneurs. Federal support to encourage self-employment by veterans.
- Uniformed Service members Employment Reemployment and Retirement Act (USERRA)- the federal government must take a strong position to identify violations by employers and couple that with an education program to insure that all parties--- to include employers and returning service members comply with the requirements of this act.
- Employers should be encouraged to hire, train and retain veterans. Providing a financial incentive to employers at all levels of government should be studied and implemented
- The federal government and all levels of government should follow the lead of New York State in providing a 5 % Veterans' set aside for government contracts

Housing

- Support a NYC housing agenda that creates affordable housing for Veterans.
- Increase the availability of HUD- VASH vouchers.
- There is a need to rework Transient to Permanent Housing. The VA must redefine the terms of homelessness to include all periods in transitional housing and programs.
- Increase funding for permanent housing sites and encourage site managers to develop quality veterans housing and programs. The dominant population is now Vietnam Era veterans and many still reside in transitional housing.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2013

No. 194

www.nyc.gov

**MAYOR BLOOMBERG SIGNS LEGISLATION REQUIRING CITY AGENCIES TO
DESIGNATE A VETERANS LIAISON**

Remarks by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at a Public Hearing on Local Laws




"The final bill before me is Introductory Number 480-A, sponsored by Council Members Gentile, Eugene, Barron, Dromm, Fidler, Gonzalez, Jackson, James, Koppell, Mark-Viverito, Mendez, Recchia, Rose, Van Bramer, Vann, Williams, Foster, Lander, Nelson, Gennaro, Chin, Dilan, Arroyo, Cabrera, Greenfield, Mealy, Halloran and Ulrich.

"This legislation codifies into law an executive order I signed in 2008 requiring City agency heads to designate an employee to serve as a liaison to veterans employed at their agencies. These liaisons will advise veterans on benefits and services that they may be eligible for, as well as personnel policies that apply to them.

"I would like to thank Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Terrance Holliday and his staff for their work on this bill along with my Office of City Legislative Affairs. I would also like to thank the Council for approving this legislation."

-30-

Contact: Marc LaVorgna/Evelyn Erskine (212) 788-2958

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Subj: **Council to vote on Veteran Liaison Bill**
Date: 5/14/2013 4:56:19 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: KTaylor@council.nyc.gov
To: KTaylor@council.nyc.gov

Good afternoon,

I wanted to reach out to let you know that within the next few days, the Veterans Committee will vote on Proposed Int. 480-A, a bill that will establish a veteran liaison program involving every agency within the City. Each agency head or commissioner will be required to appoint an employee as a liaison to veterans. These liaisons will be trained by MOVA and will work with the Office to ensure that every veteran's needs are addressed, no matter if they reach out to MOVA or an agency directly. MOVA's direct contact with veteran liaisons will allow the Office to help expedite services to veterans when needed and to alert agencies to the most urgent needs of the City's veterans. Additionally, veteran liaisons will work directly with veterans employed by City agencies to ensure they're aware of all personnel policies and benefits that impact veterans. A copy of the bill is attached and I'm happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

The Council will vote on the liaison bill at the next Stated meeting on Wednesday, May 22. If you would like to send a statement of support on letterhead or any other feedback you'd like to share, we'd very much appreciate it. If you could send any feedback or statements by the end of the day on Tuesday May 21, that would be fantastic. As always, if there are any issues you'd like to bring to the attention of the Veterans Committee, please don't hesitate to reach out. Hearing from veteran advocates is really invaluable for us and we can't thank you all enough for your work. This bill is another step forward in providing better services for veterans in New York, but we're always looking for more ways to better the lives of NYC vets.

Best,

Kelly E. Taylor
Legislative Attorney
Counsel to the Committee on Veterans
New York City Council
250 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10007
ktaylor@council.nyc.gov
212-788-6898

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Proposed Int. No. 480-A

By Council Members Gentile, Eugene, Barron, Dromm, Fidler, Gonzalez, Jackson, James, Koppell, Mark-Viverito, Mendez, Recchia, Rose, Van Bramer, Vann, Williams, Foster, Lander, Nelson, Gennaro, Halloran and Ulrich

A LOCAL LAW

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the mayor's office of veterans' affairs and the establishment of veteran liaisons.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Subchapter 3 of chapter 1 of title 3 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 3-131 to read as follows:

§ 3-131 Veteran liaisons. The head of each city agency shall designate an employee to act as liaison with veterans within such agency and shall notify the office of veterans' affairs of the name and contact information of such liaison. Such liaison shall advise veterans within such agency of benefits and services available to veterans at such agency and employee personnel policies applicable to veterans at such agency. At the request of the office of veterans' affairs, the head of each city agency shall make such liaison available to confer with and receive periodic training from the office of veterans' affairs. The office of veterans' affairs shall post on its website the names of persons designated to act as such liaison within each agency.

§ 2. This local law shall take effect thirty days after it shall have been enacted into law.

LS# 1283
BBB/KET
4/30/13 7:13PM

New York City Council Hearing
October 27, 2014

Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing on the Veterans Advisory Board

Good afternoon my name is Audrey Carr. I am the Director of the Veterans Justice Project (VJP) at Legal Services NYC. Our project advocates for the rights of veterans seeking housing, subsistence income, employment and other essential needs. Through a network of attorneys and paralegals, we provide direct legal representation to low-income veterans and connect veterans to social and mental health services. Through our city-wide telephone hotline veterans can contact our advocates in the boroughs where they live.

We are delighted that the Veterans Affairs Committee is holding this hearing on the Veterans Advisory Board. The Veteran Advisory Board is an excellent example of how the City honors the service of our veterans and harnesses the great skills and talents of New York City's veterans.

As we testified at this Committee's September 29, 2014 hearing on the creation of a Department of Veterans Affairs, we fully support this Committee's and the Council's efforts to strengthen and fortify the support provided by the City to its veterans.

It is not easy to navigate the City's bureaucracy and it's even more difficult to do so if one is a veteran who is homeless, unemployed or simply lacks resources. Often times City agencies do not enforce laws that have been enacted to ameliorate hardships that veterans

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

may face. The VJP has represented several veterans who were denied apartments in Mitchell-Lama housing developments despite the fact that the law provides a preference to veterans for such housing. We also successfully litigated against the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to ensure that all disabled veterans, regardless of whether they have a mental or physical disability, are afforded the same opportunity to obtain special veteran vending licenses so they can earn a living. The sad truth is that even with existing strong laws that give veterans an advantage, veterans sometimes still must seek legal help to redress legal wrongs and barriers to their advancement. Further, as Committee members well know, the legal process does not move rapidly, which further delays a veteran the opportunity for housing or income.

Creating a Department of Veterans Affairs and moving the Veterans Advisory Board out of the Mayor's Office will highlight the needs of NYC's veterans and their contributions. We believe that the Veterans Advisory Board can play a much more significant and effective role by ensuring that City agencies enforce and abide by all laws and regulations that benefit the veteran community. The Board can, and should require that City agencies provide quarterly reports to MOVA on the number of veterans they assist. HPD should be able to demonstrate how many veterans they have housed in Mitchell-Lama housing; DCA should report on how many veterans were granted vending licenses; the New York City Housing Authority should report on its participation in the HUD VASH Section 8 housing program, which has been instrumental in reducing veteran homelessness; and HRA should report on how many veterans it served through the special veterans job center by providing both ongoing public assistance benefits and by reporting how many one shot deals it has granted to veterans to prevent their eviction. Providing such data to the Board will give the City a better insight into its efforts to assist veterans as they re-enter civilian life.

As a member of a community of legal service providers to veterans, we welcome every opportunity to work with the Veterans Advisory Board, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, the City Council and hopefully soon a New York City Department of Veterans Affairs. Through all our efforts we can ensure that veterans who come home to New York City are afforded every opportunity to prosper.

M. Audrey Carr, Esq.
Legal Services NYC
40 Worth Street, Suite 606
New York, NY 10013

Statement of Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans Of America
before the
New York City Council Committee on Veterans
for the hearing on
The Veterans Advisory Board

October 27, 2014

Chairman Ulrich and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), I would like to extend our gratitude for being given the opportunity to share with you our views and recommendations regarding the New York City Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) and policy recommendations for New York City. Serving our veterans in New York City is a top priority for IAVA 's, and it's a critically important issue that affects the lives of tens of thousands of service members and veterans.

With over 200,000 veterans estimated to be living in New York City, 3,500 of those are IAVA members and the role of the city's government, including the Veteran Advisory Council, is crucial to the implementation and development of benefits and services that will directly improve the lives of veterans and their families. Additionally, with new leadership at the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) and an emerging drive to establish a new city department specifically for veterans' affairs, New York City is in a unique position to become a municipal leader on veterans' issues. As the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) supports a revitalized VAC for New York City and its veterans. We have included in our written testimony (exhibit A) comprehensive policy recommendations for New York City and its veterans to include; Combating Suicide and Supporting Mental Health Initiatives, Strengthening NYC Government for Today's Veterans, Defending Military and Veteran Education Benefits, Employing the New Greatest Generation, and Strengthening Support for Veterans and Their Families. We will further distribute these recommendations through the VAB at their next meeting.

Unfortunately, many veterans in New York City are not aware of the Veterans Advisory Group and the role it plays within city government. For our members who are aware of the group, many believe that historically it has not been taken seriously and that it has not had the impact on the lives of veterans and their families that it should. Others

believe there is a generational gap on the board and that student veterans are not fairly represented.

Despite the historical challenges of the Veteran Advisory Group, we believe there is an opportunity to revitalize the initiative and accurately represent veterans in New York City through the following recommendations:

- Publically record and publish meeting minutes to increase transparency and communication
- Ensure that members are actively participating and for those who become regularly inactive ask that they step down from their position
- Better represent the large number of student veterans in the city
- Include more veterans and representatives from non-standard veterans organization

It is important to recognize the effort the Veterans Advisory Group and the New York City Council have made to engage veterans in New York City and to address issues critical to the community, but there is still a considerable amount of work to be done. Revitalizing the VAC, combating suicide and supporting mental health initiatives, strengthening NYC Government for today's veterans, defending military and veteran education benefits, employing the new greatest generation, and strengthening support for veterans and their families requires a comprehensive approach. And while there is no illusion that the VAC will solve all the problems our community faces, we believe there is an opportunity to revitalize the VAC to create a significant and positive impact in the lives of veterans and their families.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to offer our views on this important topic, and we look forward to continuing to work with each of you, your staff, and this Committee to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Exhibit A:

Comprehensive Policy Recommendations for New York City

Combat Suicide and Support Mental Health Initiatives

Combating suicide is one of the most important issues to IAVA's members and it must be a priority of the entire American public. In IAVA's 2014 member survey, 47 percent of respondents reported they knew a veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan who had attempted suicide. Over 40 percent knew a new veteran who had died by suicide, and many of these respondents knew more than one. Nationwide, the suicide rate among troops and veterans is staggering – recent VA data suggests that 22 veterans die by suicide each day.

Lowering the rate of suicide among troops and veterans will take a comprehensive approach and often, the New York City government is on the front lines. The New York City government can be a critical partner in the fight to combat suicide by adopting the following policy initiatives.

- Promote, Support and Fund IAVA's Rapid Response Referral Program (RRRP)
- Integrate VA and DoD Suicide Prevention Efforts with City Services
- Encourage Council District Discretionary Funds be Spent on Community-Based Mental Health Programs and Non-Profit Programs
- Build on the Recent Veterans Mental Health Care Initiative
- Train Local First Responders in the Best Practices to Support Veterans in Crisis
- Launch a City Awareness Campaign to Combat the Stigma of Seeking Help for Combat Stress Injuries

Strengthen NYC Government for Today's Veterans

The system required by today's veterans – whether they served in Vietnam or Iraq and Afghanistan – will be very different from the legacy system. With only 22,691 Post-9/11 veterans estimated to be living in New York City, this generation of veterans makes up a small percentage of the total city population, and the changing demographics of new veterans will require a nimble, dynamic system of care that can predict the needs of veterans and respond quickly. Today's veterans envision a system of care designed with the same entrepreneurial spirit required of them during their service. Standing on ceremony or hiding behind process cannot stand. Success must be measured by results, rather than by the number of new programs or initiatives created.

- Establish a Department of Veterans Affairs for New York City
- Establish Veterans Treatment Courts in All 5 Boroughs
- Fund the NYC Veterans Resource Center Initiative
- Develop a City Resource Directory
- Collect Basic Contact Information for Veterans at Social Services
- Train Probation Officers on Veterans' Benefits

Defend Military and Veteran Education Benefits

In 2013, the one-millionth new veteran went to school on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, realizing many of the hopes that IAVA and partner organizations had when working to pass this historic benefit. Yet, far too many barriers remain to ensure that this generation gets the most out of this historic benefit. Too many veterans are falling prey to predatory for profit schools who see veterans as dollar signs in uniform. Additionally, structural barriers within the public education system are preventing veterans from making the most of the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

- Aggressively Investigate Predatory For-Profit Schools
- Grant all Student Vets Residency Status for the Purpose of Receiving In-State Tuition at all CUNY System Schools
- Provide Support to Nonprofits Providing Services to Help Vets Achieve their Educational Goals
- Require CUNY System Schools to Reimburse Tuition for Students Who Deployed Mid-Academic Term
- Grant Tax Credits to Military Spouses to Pursue Higher Education

Employ the New Greatest Generation

The unemployment rate for new vets continues to drop as the economy improves, but the unemployment numbers among veterans in New York City is still slightly higher than the national average. Additionally, despite the significant investments of the public and private sectors, there are many structural barriers to finding meaningful work after leaving the military. Addressing the legal and cultural barriers that prevent many veterans from smoothly transitioning from combat to career will be the long-term solution to keeping veterans from being one economic downturn away from skyrocketing unemployment.

- Establish City Preference Laws for Contracting
- Include Veterans in City Employment Emphasis Programs

- Develop Veteran Services in the City's Department of Small Business Services (SBS)
- Recognize Military Experience For Credentialing and Licensing Requirements
- Targeted Tax Relief for Small Businesses Owned by Deployed Guard and Reservists

Support for Veterans and Their Families

Veterans and their families face a unique set of challenges due to military service. New York City should implement policies that reflect the unique needs of this community and publicly recognize veterans and military families at every available opportunity.

- Educate School Administrators and Teachers on the Unique Challenges of Military Children
- Update New York City Housing Authority Regulations to Include Iraq and Afghanistan Conflicts
- Mayoral and Council Participation at Veteran Events in New York City

**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: 10/27/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jaron Hansman

Address: 292 Madison Avenue 10th Flr

I represent: Iraq and Afghanistan Vets of America

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: 10/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GONZALO DURAN

Address: 4555 3rd Ave #3 BRONX NY

I represent: DEVIL DOG USA INC

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: 10/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Vincent McGowan

Address: 320 W 76 St

I represent: Veterans Advisory Bd.

Address: 346 Broadway

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

**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: Matthew Silverstein

Address: 228 East 45th St NY, NY

I represent: America Works of New York

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: 10/25/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Rowan

Address: 82-48 Penelope Ave M J M 1137

I represent: Veteran Advisory Board

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: JOE Zilio

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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

**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: _____

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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

**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: 10/27/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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