

; 08/30/18 3:16 AM

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>> GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYBODY.
MY NAME IS ED FLYNN, AND I AM
THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON
CITY, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND
VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS.
I AM JOINED BY TIMOTHY MCCARTHY
AND COUNCILOR MATT O'MALLEY.
I REMIND YOU THIS PUBLIC HEARING
IS BEING RECORDED IN BROADCAST
LIVE ON CHANNEL COMCAST 8,
RCN82, VERIZON 1964 AND WEB CAST
ON BOSTON.GOV.
AT THIS TIME PLEASE SILENCE YOUR
CELL PHONES AND ANY OTHER
DEVICES.
WE WILL ALSO TAKE PUBLIC
TESTIMONY AND WOULD APPRECIATE
IT IF YOU WOULD SIGN IN TO
TESTIFY.
AT THE START OF YOUR TESTIMONY,
PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND
RESIDENCE AND AFFILIATION.
TODAY'S HEARING IS DOCKET 0986.
AT THIS TIME I'M GOING TO READ
THE DOCKET NUMBER.
IN ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AGO
KNOWLEDGE AND DISCUSS THE
OUTREACH OF THE OFFICE OF
VETERAN SERVICES AND
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
FACING VETERANS AND MILITARY
FAMILIES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.
AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL FOR
ATTENDING TODAY'S HEARING.
I AM GLAD TO SEE SO MANY
VETERANS AND VETERANS
ORGANIZATIONS HERE TODAY TO
SPEAK ABOUT THE IMPORTANT WALK
THAT YOU ARE DOING ACROSS OUR
CITY AND ACROSS OUR STATE.
IN ASSISTING THOSE WHO HAVE
SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR OUR
COUNTRY.
THE PURPOSE OF THIS HEARING IS
TO GIVE THE OFFICE OF VETERAN
SERVICES AND RELATED
DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING STATE AND
FEDERAL OFFICIALS, ACTIVE IN
HELPING VETERANS AND MILITARY
FAMILIES, AN OPPORTUNITY TO

PROVIDE AN UPDATE AND/OR
AWARENESS ON ALL THE GREAT WORK
THEY ARE DOING IN SUPPORT OF
VETERANS AND MILITARY AND
FAMILIES IN BOSTON AND ACROSS
THE STATE AS WELL.

I KNOW THE WORK DONE EVERY DAY
BY OUR CITY, FROM THE WAY HOME
PROGRAM, HELPING VETERANS, WOMEN
VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF
VETERANS.

I HAVE COME FROM A COMMUNITY
THAT ALWAYS VALUED AND SUPPORTED
OUR VETERANS AND MILITARY
FAMILIES, AND SOMEONE I
RESPECTED GREATLY IS TOM LYONS
WHO IS ALSO ON THE PANEL AND THE
SOUTH BOSTON VIETNAM VETERAN,
TOM AND ALSO MY LATE UNCLE
DENNIS WAS AS WELL.

AND SOUTH BOSTON VIETNAM
VETERANS HELPED BUILT THE FIRST
MEMORIAL IN THE COUNTRY TO OUR
FALLEN BROTHERS.

THEIR SERVICES WILL ALWAYS BE
REMEMBERED.

LAST MEMORIAL DAY I WAS HONORED
TO JOIN COMMISSIONER STERLING
AND MAYOR WELCH, AND AT THE
AMERICAN LEAGUE POST, THE
AFRICAN-AMERICAN VETERANS,
LATINO, ASIAN VETERANS WHO ALL
EARNED YOU ARE RESPECT.

WE SEE EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD STAND
UP AND SERVE OUR COUNTRY.
AS A SOCIETY, LET'S REMEMBER AND
HONOR THEM.

AND AGAIN I THANK COMMISSIONER
STERLING FOR HER GREAT WORK OVER
THE YEARS IN HELPING VETERANS.
I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE MAYOR
WELCH IN LEADING THE WAY WITH
HOMELESS VETERANS, PROVIDING
HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS
WORKING WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA AND
VICE-PRESIDENT BIDEN ON THIS
IMPORTANT INITIATIVE AND I KNOW
THEY MADE GREAT PROGRESS.
AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL FOR
ATTENDING TODAY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING THIS
HEARING, AN OPPORTUNITY TO
HIGHLIGHT THE WONDERFUL WORK OUR
CITY, STATE AND LOCAL

ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING.
AND FOR ME, IT'S NOT JUST A
HEARING, IT'S SOMETHING I WOULD
LIKE TO CONTINUE, WOULD LIKE TO
CONTINUE TO WORK WITH
COMMISSIONER STERLING AND HAVE A
HEARING FREQUENTLY SO WE CAN GET
SOME UPDATES ON WHAT YOUR
ORGANIZATION IS DOING AND WHAT
OTHER PEOPLE ARE DOING.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO MAKE
SURE THAT WE REACH AS MANY VET
RAP -- VETERANS WHO MIGHT BE
HOME-BOUND OR PASS ALONG
INFORMATION, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT
TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT ABOUT THE
GREAT SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR
VETERANS.

AT THIS TIME, AS I MENTIONED,
THE CITY COUNCILOR O'MALLEY AND
CITY COUNCILOR MCCARTHY ARE
HERE.

AND CITY COUNCILOR MCCARTHY IF
YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN
OPENING STATEMENT.

BEFORE I DO THAT, I WOULD JUST
LIKE TO RECOGNIZE CITY COUNCILOR
MCCARTHY'S FAMILY FOR SUPPORTING
AND SERVING OUR COUNTRY,
INCLUDING HIS FATHER WHO WAS A
VIETNAM VETERAN, U.S. AIR FORCE
RETIRED.

AND HIS SON JUST ENLISTED IN THE
MILITARY AS WELL.

SO THE MCCARTHY FAMILY.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH
COUNCILOR.

I AM HERE TO SUPPORT MY SON IS
PENDING AS WE SPEAK THE' ALL
GOOD.

I AM JUST HERE TO MAKE SURE
CLEARLY TAKING THE LEAD ON THIS,
AND MY FAMILY SERVED AT LENGTH.
AND ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT
WE CAN DO AS A BODY TO MAKE SURE
THAT THE VETERANS ARE TAKEN CARE
OF, THAT'S CERTAINLY WHAT WE ARE
GOING TO DO AND WE WILL CONTINUE
TO DO SO.

SO YOU ARE IN GOOD HANDS WITH
EDDY, THAT'S FOR SURE.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR.

>> THANK YOU CHAIRMAN AND GOOD
AFTERNOON COMMISSIONER AND THANK

YOU ALL FOR INCREDIBLE SERVICE.
AND COUNCILOR MCCARTHY FOR YOUR
FAMILY'S SERVICE.

WE ARE ENDEBTED TO VETERANS AND
MILITARY FAMILIES.

NO WORDS OR PROGRAMS WILL
ADEQUATELY EXPRESS WHAT ALL OF
YOU HAVE DONE AND WHAT IT MEANS
TO US.

REST ASSURED WE ARE FULLY
COMMITTED TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN
TO MAKE SURE BOSTON AND THE
COMMONWEALTH PROVIDE THE BEST
OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS AND
MILITARY FAMILIES.

AND WE'RE READY TO WORK AND HELP
AND SUPPORT YOU JUST AS YOU'VE
ALWAYS SUPPORTED ALL OF US.

SO LOOKING FORWARD, AND THANK
YOU FOR CALLING THIS HEARING,
MR. CHAIRMAN.

>> THAURNG COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.
READING A LETTER INTO THE RECORD
FROM CITY COUNCILOR EDWARDS, THE
CO-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE AS
WELL, OF THE HEARING.

THANK YOU FOR HOLDING A HEARING
ON IRISSUES I AM ACTING THE
VETERAN COMMUNITY.

I REGRET I AM OUT OF TOWN AT
THIS TIME.

AS YOU KNOW, VETERAN ISSUES ARE
DEEPLY IMPORTANT TO ME.
MY LIFE HAS BEEN SHAPED BY MY
MOTHER'S EXPERIENCE OF A VETERAN
OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING THE
HEARING AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR
THE TEST MONEY PROVIDE.

COME TO ME AS AN ALLY FOR
SUPPORT OF VETERANS IN OUR
COMMUNITIES.

LYDIA EDWARDS, CITY COUNCILOR
DISTRICT 1.

AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO
ASK -- WE'RE ALSO JOINED BY CITY
COUNCILOR PRESSLEY WHO IS
JOINING US.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN OPENING
STATEMENT, COUNCILOR PRESSLEY.

>> VERY BRIEFLY.

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE.

THANK YOU AND COUNCILOR FLYNN

AND EDWARDS FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP.
I THINK EVERY MEMBER OF THIS
COUNCIL WOULD SAY WE ARE
COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING OUR
VETERANS, BUT I WOULD SAY THAT
COMMITMENT HAS BEEN BOLSTERED
WITH THE ADECISION OF COUNCILOR
FLYNN AND EDWARDS ON THIS BODY
WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT VETERANS
ON EVERY ISSUE.

NOT JUST SOME OF THE MORE -- YOU
KNOW, IT IS NOT JUST DURING
VETERANS DAY, BUT YEAR-ROUND.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THEIR ADVOCATE
AND VOICE, AND I WILL STOP HERE
BECAUSE I AM LOSING MINE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM
ALL OF YOU.

THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO EVERY
DAY.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR PRESSLEY.
SIT -- AT THIS TIME I WOULD
RECOGNIZE AND INTRODUCE
COMMISSIONER STERLING.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR FLYNN,
BOTH FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR
COUNTRY AND YOUR COMMITTED
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.
COUNCILOR MCCARTHY, COUNCILOR
O'MALLEY AND COUNCILOR PRESSLEY,
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR
COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS AND
THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CITY,
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND
VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
FOR INVITING MYSELF AND MY
FELLOW COLLEAGUES, PEERS AND
MENTORS IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY
ON THE WORK DONE TO SUPPORT
VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES.
WHILE WE ALL MAY OPERATE UNDER
DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS, TITLES
AND SCOPE OF MISSION, HONORING
AND SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY
VETERANS IS THE SAME.

I PREPARED A FEW REMARKS THAT
OUTLINE THE STRUCTURE OF OUR
OFFICE AND ITS ROLE WITHIN THE
VETERANS NETWORK, ALONG WITH
HIGHLIGHTING RESOURCES,
PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES
THAT ADDRESS SOME OF THE
CHALLENGES THAT THE VETERANS
COMMUNITY IS FACING AND I WOULD

LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU THAT.
SO THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE
OFFICE OF VETERAN SERVICES IS TO
ASSIST LOW-INCOME VETERANS AND
FAMILIESLY AND THOSE
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
THROUGH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM KNOWN AS CHAPTER 115.
THE INCEPTION SHORTLY AFTER THE
CIVIL WAR EVERY CITY AND TOWN IN
THE COMMONWEALTH MUST ASSIGN OR
APPOINT A VETERAN SERVICE
OFFICER WHO OVERSEES THE
BENEFITS.

WE ARE JOINED TODAY BY SOME
COUNTERPARTS FROM THE STATE WHO
CAN OFFER ADDITIONAL INSIGHT ON
THE RESOURCES, WHICH INCLUDE
MILITARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND
SUBSIDIES ON MEDICAL EXPENSES.
AND TO ASSIST CLIENTS BEYOND
CHAPTER 115, PART OF A
COORDINATED ACCESS SYSTEM THAT
IS AN ONLINE PORTAL WHICH WE
PROVIDE A WARM HAND-OFF TO SOME
OF THE PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS,
MANY OF WHICH ARE IN THIS ROOM
HERE TODAY.

AS A CITY WITH DEEP MILITARY
HISTORY AND TRADITIONS, OUR
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES IS
INVOLVED IN COMMEMORATIVE
ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO THE
BOSTON SUCH AS MILITARY
PLACEMENTS, PEARL HARBOR DAY,
NATIONAL RECOGNITION DAY, ALONG
WITH THE SERVICE PROVIDE ARE
EVENTS SUCH AS GREATER BOSTON
VETERANS STAND-DOWN HOSTED HERE
NEXT FRIDAY FOR THE HOME FOR THE
VETERANS HERE ON THE CITY HALL
PLAZA.

AND A FEW TRADITION OF ITS OWN
WITH SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO ENGAGE,
POWER AND SERVE THE VETERANS
COMMUNITY.

AS COUNCILOR FLYNN MENTIONED
EARLIER, EVERY MONTH BETWEEN
MARCH AND NOVEMBER THE PAST
THREE YEARS WE ORGANIZED A
SERVICE PROJECT WHERE THE
VOLUNTEERS HAND-DELIVERY SOURCE
PACKETS TO VETERANS AND MILITARY
FAMILIES LIVING IN BOSTON.

WITHIN THESE PACKETS ARE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND INFORMATION ON HOW TO CONNECT WITH SERVICES, INCLUDING THE GREATER BOSTON COLLABORATIVE FOSTERING A NETWORK OF OVER 200 VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS WITH MEMBERS AND LEADERSHIP LIKE BOB AND DAVE FROM THE V.A. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM ALSO JOINING US HERE TODAY.

THESE PACKETS ALSO COME ALONG WITH A SCHEDULE OF THE MAYOR'S COFFEE HOURS, UPCOMING HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EVENTS, AND INVITATION TO THE MAYOR ANNUAL'S WET COME HOME BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY THE CITY CREDIT UNION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMUNITY.

WHILE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WILL REMAIN A FOCUS FOR THE DEPARTMENT, OUR PRIORITY GOING FORWARD WILL EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES TO EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, AS WELL AS ANTICIPATE THE NEEDS FOR SERVICES SPECIFIC TO WOMEN VETERANS, WHICH IS THE FASTEST GROWING DEMOGRAPHIC IN THE VETERANS COMMUNITY.

WE'RE FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE MASSACHUSETTS WOMEN'S VETERANS NETWORK HEADQUARTERED HERE IN BOSTON WHO HAVE GROWN A SISTERHOOD MEETING EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS PROVIDING SERVICES, WORKSHOPS AND A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

AND WE ARE JOINED BY CAROLYN FROM THE NETWORK'S STEERING COMMITTEE.

WHILE THIS IS A SNAPSHOT OF SOME SERVICES WITHIN THE OFFICE, AND THERE ARE OTHER LARGER INITIATIVES THAT MAYOR WELCH HAS COMMITTED THE ADMINISTRATION TO, INCLUDING THE CHALLENGE AND VETERANS HOMELESSNESS LED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD

DEVELOPMENT.

THE CITY HAS ENDED CHRONIC VETERANS HOMELESSNESS THERE IS STILL WORK TO DO.

AND HOUSING INDIVIDUALS, AND GROUND-BREAKING EFFORTS IN BUILDING OVER 100 UNITS OF VETERAN HOUSING ON THE CAMPUS. AND VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES ALSO NEED TO BE REMINDED OF SOME LESSER-KNOWN BENEFITS SUCH AS WELCOME HOME BONUS, AND THE CITY TAX ABATEMENT OFFERED HERE AT CITY HALL.

WHILE I CAN SPEAK GENERALLY ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS, I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THE REST OF MY TIME TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ORGANIZATION TALK ABOUT THE SPECIFICS OF THESE BENEFITS AND HOW THEY CAN BE ACCESSED TO ANY OF THE VETERANS WHO MAY BE WATCHING OR LISTENING HERE TODAY.

AND I WILL CLOSE MY REMARKS ADDING WE HAVE A STRONG NETWORK OF DEDICATED ORGANIZATIONS, DOING RIGHT THINGS FOR VETERANS. AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM ALL FOR BEING HERE TODAY AS WELL, INCLUDING TOM LYONS TO MY RIGHT AND MY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AS WELL FROM THE CITY OF BOSTON. THANK YOU AGAIN, COUNCILOR FOR THE COMMUNITY AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION AS WELL.

>> THANK YOU.

WE ARE JOINED BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS.

>> FIRST THANK YOU COUNCILOR FLYNN FOR HAVING THIS FEELING FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

AND COUNCILOR O'MALLEY, PRESSLEY AND COUNCILOR WU ALSO ATTENDING. AND I WANT TO GO OVER A COUPLE OF NUMBERS FROM THE LAST FISCAL YEAR WE HAD THROUGH OUR OFFICE. WE HAD OVER 2600 WALK-IN CLIENTS, THE VETERANS WHO CAME

INTO OUR OFFICE.

WE RESPONDED TO OVER 10,300
CALLS AND ALSO RESPONDED TO OVER
3,300 EMAILS.

NOW THAT MAY SEEM LIKE A LOT,
THAT IS DEFINITELY A NUMBER WE
WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE OFFICE
GROW.

HAVING THIS PLATFORM, THIS FORUM
IS A STEP TO MAKE SURE ALL
VETERANS HAVE INFORMATIONS AND
THEY KNOW THROUGH OUR OFFICE.

>> THANK YOU AND I KNOW YOU
RETIRED FROM THE U.S. NAVY AS
WELL, SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE.

>> THANK YOU, SIR.

THANK YOU SHIPMATE.

AND NEXT WE HAVE TOM LYONS, THE
VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MASS HOUSING, UNITED STATES
MARINE, VIETNAM VETERAN.

ACTIVE IN HELPING SO MANY
VETERANS, NOT ONLY HERE IN
BOSTON, BUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY,
WHETHER IT'S HOUSING, DRUG
TRAINING, HE WAS ACTIVE WITH THE
CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF
VETERAN SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF
BOSTON AS WELL.

SO RESPECTED FOR HIS LONG-TIME
SUPPORT OF VETERANS IN MILITARY
FAMILIES.

THANK YOU TOM FOR BEING WITH US.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

AND THANK YOU MEMBERS OF THE
COUNCIL FOR BEING HERE TODAY.
AND THANKS FOR ALLOWING ME TO
SAY JUST A FEW WORDS ABOUT HOW
IMPORTANT TODAY IS.

AS THIS COUNCIL, THE CITY, AND
COMMISSIONER STERLING CONTINUE
TO MOVE FORWARD TO IMPROVE THE
LIVES OF OUR VETERANS.

AS YOU SAID, MR. CHAIRMAN, I
HAVE BEEN AROUND A WHILE.

I HAVE BEEN PART OF THE VETERANS
COMMUNITY NOW FOR GOING ON 36
YEARS.

AND CERTAINLY AS DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER FOR THE CITY OF
BOSTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

IN THE 16 YEARS AT MASS HOUSING,
HELPING TO CREATE HOUSING FOR
VETERANS.

ACROSS THAT LANDSCAPE, I REALLY
UNDERSTOOD AT EACH STEP OF THE
WAY HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR
VETERANS TO HAVE PEOPLE THEY CAN
GO TO, WHO THEY CAN TALK TO TO
HELP THEM ASSIST IN SO MANY
AREAS.

HOUSING IS ONE THAT REALLY HIT
HOME WHEN I BECAME THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR AT THE CENTER.

IT WAS FRUSTRATED WHEN WE HAD A
VETERAN WHO SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETED PROGRAMS AT THE
FACILITY AND WE WERE STANDING ON
THE CURB WAITING FOR THEIR
FAMILIES OR LOVED ONES TO PICK
THEM UP, AND THEY STRUGGLED WITH
WHERE THEY WERE GOING TO GO.

HOW THING CERTAINLY CONTINUES TO
BE A MAJOR ISSUE FOR VETERANS,
LET ALONE VETERANS WHO HAVE TO
CALL A SHELTER HOME.

A GREAT STATESMAN SAID PEOPLE
NEED NOT BE SO MUCH INFORMED AS
THEY NEED TO BE REMINDED.

AND I THINK TODAY WE ARE GOING
TO BE REMINDING THE COUNCIL AND
THE CITY THAT PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES ARE CRITICAL TO OUR MEN
AND WOMEN WHO ARE NOT ONLY
COMING HOME FROM TWO WARS, BUT
SIMPLY THE VETERANS AGING IN
PLACE.

WE, THE VIETNAM VETERANS.
AND WE HAVE THINGS IN PLACE, ONE
THING WHEN IT COMES TO PUBLIC
HOUSING.

WE DO HAVE A PREFERENCE IN STATE
HOUSING FOR VETERANS, AND IT'S
ONE, I THINK, THAT SOMETIMES
GETS LOST IN THE DAY-TO-DAY
TRYING TO PLACE VETERANS INTO
HOUSING, BUT IT'S ONE AREA I
THINK PUBLIC HOUSING
PARTICULARLY HERE IN THE CITY
CAN BE A PLACE WHERE VETERANS
MAY BE ABLE TO BE PLACED USING
THEIR SERVICE TIME.

I SPOKE ABOUT AGING IN PLACE.
THERE ARE SO MANY PROGRAMS
AVAILABLE NOW THAT VETERANS CAN

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, BOTH IN THE
NONPROFIT COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS
THE CITY TO BE ABLE TO AGE IN
PLACE AND THEIR FAMILIES BEING
ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM SO
THEY ARE NOT PLACED IN A HOME,
WHETHER IT'S A NURSING HOME OR A
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY.

THE OTHER AREA THAT I WOULD
SUGGEST THAT COUNSEL THINK ABOUT
AND LOOK IT, IS WHEN IT COMES TO
EMPLOYMENT.

WE ALL KNOW BEING A FIREFIGHTER,
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT,
VETERANS PREFERENCE.

NOT EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE A
POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER.
I THINK THERE'S SOME GOOD
OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CITY IF
A YOUNG MAN, WOMAN COMING HOME
FROM THE SERVICE AND WANTS TO
WORK FOR THE CITY SHOULD BE ABLE
TO USE THAT VETERANS PREFERENCE
TO HELP THEM GET INTO A
GOOD-PAYING JOB IN THE CITY,
PARTICULARLY WHERE THEY HAVE TO
LIVE, AND I JUST WANT TO THROW
THAT OUT TO THE COUNCIL TO THINK
ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO HIRING
WITHIN THE CITY.

AS I SAID, NOT EVERYBODY WANTS
TO BE A POLICE OFFICER OR A
FIREFIGHTER.

I WILL JUST CLOSE MY REMARKS AS
I'M HERE TODAY JUST TO BE A
VOICE BUT ALSO SOMEONE WHO OVER
THE COURSE OF HIS TIME IN THE
VETERANS COMMUNITY HAS SEEN HOW
ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT HELPS
VETERANS INDEPENDENCE, IMPROVE
THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AND BE
ABLE TO LIVE HERE IN THE GREAT
CITY OF BOSTON.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, TOM.

WE'RE ALSO JOINED BY MY
COLLEAGUE, CITY COUNCILOR
MICHELLE WU.

COUNCILOR WU, WOULD YOU LIKE TO
MAKE AN OPENING STATEMENT?

>> MR. CHAIRMAN, THANK YOU TO
ALL OF YOU FOR THE WORK THAT YOU
DO AND EVERYONE THAT YOU
REPRESENT.

I AM VERY EXCITED THAT WE ARE FORMALLY EXAMINING THESE SERVICES AND LOOKING AT HOW WE CAN CONTINUE GROWING THEM, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR. AT THIS TIME WE CAN OPEN IT UP TO QUESTIONS STARTING WITH THE COMMISSIONER. COMMISSIONER, I KNOW YOU HIGHLIGHTED HOUSING, THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF MAKING SURE THAT OUR VETERANS HAVE ACCESS TO HOUSING FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENT. I KNOW THE GREAT WORK THE MAYOR HAS DONE IN HELPING RETURNING VETERANS, ESPECIALLY HOMELESS VETERANS ACCESS TO HOUSING. WHAT OTHER STEPS COULD THE CITY TAKE OR COULD THE RESIDENTS TAKE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOUR OFFICE OR WITH THE CITY LEADERS OR STATE LEADERS OR FEDERAL LEADERS, TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANT NEED FOR HOUSING FOR RETURNING VETERANS, WHETHER IT'S HERE IN BOSTON OR ACROSS THE STATE?

>> SURE, I THINK A LOT OF THE GROUNDWORK HAS BEEN LAID OUT IN THE MAYOR'S COMMITMENT IN ENDING VETERANS HOMELESSNESS. AND THE PLAN PUT IN PLACE WITH BOSTON'S WAY HOME. I THINK IF THAT CONTINUES TO EVOLVE IT MAY ALSO PROPOSE SOME OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERAN PREFERENCE IN HOUSING AS WELL. YOU LOOK AT THE GREAT EXAMPLE THAT REEM IS SETTING, THE GROUND-BREAKING, A LITTLE OVER 100 UNITS THERE.

MAYBE EXAMINING THE PIPELINE OF HOW WE ARE INTERACTING WITH TRANSITIONS VETERANS AND HOW WE ARE CONNECTING THEM WITH THE HOUSING THAT'S BECOMING MORE AND MORE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

>> DO WE STILL SEE A LOT OF RETURNING VETERANS COMING TO BOSTON WITHOUT HOUSING? ARE THEY BOSTON RESIDENTS? OR A LOT OF VETERANS COMING FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY

LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITY?

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING IN THAT REGARD?

>> I CAN'T NECESSARILY SPEAK TO THE NUMBERS IN GENERAL.

I CAN SAY THERE IS A TREND BECAUSE VETERANS THAT ARE RETURNING COME WITH EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS AND WE HAVE SOME RECEIPTLY GREAT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HERE IN THE GREAT CITY OF BOSTON THAT ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THOSE OPPORTUNITIES.

BUT BEING ABLE TO ASSIST THEM AND FINDING HOUSING WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT WE CAN EXPLORE AS WELL.

>> I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN YOU AND SEVERAL OF YOUR STAFF AND A LOT OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE OPERATION EVENT THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW.

CAN YOU HIGHLIGHT THAT PROGRAM? IT'S INFORMING VETERANS OF THE BENEFITS THAT THEY EARNED, AND MILITARY FAMILIES AS WELL.

FROM MY EXPERIENCE, KNOCKING ON A DOOR AND SAYING THANK YOU FOR THEIR SERVICE, IT WAS ALMOST THE FIRST TIME A LOT OF THESE OLDER VETERANS ACTUALLY HEARD THOSE WORDS.

SO I JUST WANT TO COMPLIMENT YOUR STAFF FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE ON THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM.

BUT WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF OPERATION THANK EVENT?

>> SURE.

WE FOUND, I THINK, THAT THE VETERANS COMMUNITY IS A HIGH-TOUCH HIGH-TRUST COMMUNITY. SO ENSURING THAT WE'RE TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS, THAT WE'RE ENGAGING WITH OUR VETERANS OR A FACE-TO-FACE BASIS AT A REGULAR CADENCE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

SO FAR IT IS COMPLETELY VOLUNTEER-BASED AND WE'VE REACHED A LITTLE OVER 3500 HOMES.

AND INCLUDED AT LEAST 357 NEW

VOLUNTEERS.

SO NOT ONLY IS THIS A WAY FOR US TO CONNECT WITH OUR VETERANS, BUT IT'S ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR NON-VETERANS TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH OUR VETERANS AND UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE NEEDS THAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR AS FAR AS ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY.

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER. BEFORE I OPEN IT UP TO MY COLLEAGUES I'LL ASK ONE MORE QUESTION.

TO TOM, TOM, I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN ACTIVE ON THE PROGRAM MANY YEARS THAT IS HELPING VETERANS WITH HOUSING.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE DASH PROGRAM?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACING THE CITY OR THE STATE OR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OR MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO A VETERAN THAT IS TRYING TO ACCESS THAT PROGRAM?

>> SURE.

THE DASH PROGRAM IS AN H.U.D. V.A. VOUCHER ALLOWING SOMEONE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS TO ACCESS AN APARTMENT SIMILAR TO SECTION 8.

AND OVER THE YEARS WORKING WITH SHEILA DILLON IS TRYING TO EDUCATE LANDLORDS ABOUT THE PROGRAM.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS SOMETHING THAT I'VE SEEN OVER THE TIME I WAS AT THE CENTER WAS PEOPLE DON'T HEAR THE WORD "VETERAN" BECAUSE WE USE THE WORD "HOMELESS" FIRST.

BUT IF WE WERE TO TALK WITH A LANDLORD AND SAY WE HAVE A VETERAN WHO IS FORMERLY HOMELESS, AND HE OR SHE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY NOW TO TURN THEIR LIFE AROUND AND GET BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AS A PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN, I THINK IT GOES A LONG WAY FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL HOPEFULLY GETTING A PLACE TO LIVE.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY, HOMELESS VETERAN SEEMS TO CONNECT IN SO

MANY WAYS BECAUSE IT TENDS TO
BRING IN MONEY IF YOU ARE A
NONPROFIT.

AND FOR ME, I ALWAYS TRY TO
CHANGE THAT DYNAMIC WHEN I WAS
AT THE CENTER, TO GET PEOPLE TO
TALK THESE ARE VETERANS, MEN AND
WOMEN WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY,
WHO UNFORTUNATELY FIND
THEMSELVES IN THAT SITUATION.
THE EDUCATION, IF YOU WILL, OF
LANDLORDS TO UNDERSTAND A LITTLE
BIT MORE ABOUT WHAT THIS DASH
PROGRAM IS, HOW IT'S HELPING THE
INDIVIDUAL.

AND UNLIKE A SECTION 8, THIS
CERTIFICATE COMES WITH SOME CASE
MANAGEMENT.

SO THE INDIVIDUAL ISN'T JUST
PLACED IN THE COMMUNITY, PUT IN
A SITUATION OF BEING POTENTIALLY
FAILING, BUT RATHER WITH THE
SUPPORT SYSTEMS AROUND HIM OR
HER OR HAVING A CASE MANAGER,
THE LIKELIHOOD OF THAT
INDIVIDUAL BEING SUCCESSFUL
BECOMES VERY HIGH.

>> AND FOLLOWING UP TO
COMMISSIONER STERLING AND HER
COMMENTS, YOU WORK QUITE A BIT
WITH THE MAYOR ON THE MASS
HOUSING, AN EXCELLENT
DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

AN EXCELLENT HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY.

I KNOW WINN DEVELOPMENT WAS PART
OF IT.

AND DO YOU THINK THAT THE
OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD MORE
HOUSING LIKE THAT ACROSS BOSTON,
USING PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS, AND HAVING A GREAT
LOCATION SUCH AS THAT, BUT
HAVING SEVERAL OF THESE
LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT BOSTON.

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT
BRIGHTON IT IS EXCELLENT AND I
WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF THAT
TYPE OF HOUSING BUILT.

>> YOU KNOW ACTUALLY I THINK
THIS WOULD BE A MODEL FOR THE
CITY TO LOOK AT.

YOU KNOW, FULL DISCLOSURE, BEING
A BOARD MEMBER AND ALSO BEING AN

EMPLOYEE AT MASS HOUSING, I HAVE TO WALK THAT FINE LINE OF MAKING SURE THAT I SEPARATED MYSELF FROM CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THAT PROJECT.

BUT IT'S ONE THAT, AS A BOARD MEMBER, I AM SO PROUD OF.

OUR C.E.O. BOARD TAKING THAT STEP THAT CREATE AND BUILD VETERANS HOUSING.

WE HAVEN'T BUILT VETERANS HOUSING IN THIS CITY, IN THIS COMMONWEALTH SINCE WORLD WAR II. MANY OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS WERE BUILT FOR THE RETURNING VETERAN.

SO THE BRIGHT MARINE PROJECT IS ONE THAT I THINK THE CITY CAN AND SHOULD LOOK AT AS TO HOW YOU BRING THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO THE TABLE AND START LOOKING AT SPACE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO ACTUALLY CREATE REAL VETERANS HOUSING, WHERE YOU HAVE VETERANS WHO WILL BE LIVING THERE THAT MAY HAVE A BROTHER LIVING THERE AS FIREFIGHTER OR TEACHER AND ONE THAT RETIRED AND NOW WANTS A NICE PLACE TO LIVE. IT IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF WHAT KIND OF HOUSING CAN AND SHOULD BE BUILT.

>> COMMISSIONER STERLING, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE ROLE OF FUTURE BRIGHTON MARINE AMONGS WE MAY SEE IN THE LONG TERM IN THE CITY.

>> JUST TO ECOWHAT TOM WAS SAYING.

IT'S A GREAT MODEL AND SOMETHING WE SHOULD DEFINITELY EXPLORE AND SEEK OTHER OPPORTUNITIES LIKE IT.

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

I'D LIKE TO OPEN IT UP TO MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COUNCIL.

COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

STILL COUNCILOR MCCARTHY.

>> I JUST CALL ME TIM, WHATEVER WORKS FOR YOU. NO, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MY QUESTION IS PRETTY SHORT AND SWEET.

I COACHED FOOTBALL A LONG, LONG

TIME AND A LOT OF THE YOUNG MEN
I COACHED HAVE ENTERED THE
MILITARY SERVICE, AND NOW A LOT
OF THEM ARE COMING BACK.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE AS FAR
AS BANKING?

AS FAR AS LOW-PERFECT LOANS,
PREQUALS, THINGS LIKE THAT.

AT SOME POINT AND TIME DALTON IS
COMING BACK FROM FORT BENNING,
WHEREVER HE GOES, IS GOING TO BE
IN MY BASEMENT OR GETS PRE QUAL
AND I WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE HIM
IN MY BASEMENT.

>> WORKING AT MASS HOUSING A
GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MREG

-- PLUG THE AGENCY.

WE HAVE A GREAT HOMEOWNERSHIP
PROGRAM WHERE WE INSIST ON
FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS GET A
HOME BUYER'S EDUCATION.
AND WE ALSO, INTERESTINGLY
ENOUGH, HAVE A GREAT PROGRAM FOR
VETERANS, OPERATION WELCOME
HOME.

IT'S A PROGRAM THAT WE PARTNER
WITH THE NOT AGENCIES, BUT THE
BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS
THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH
WHERE WE PROVIDE DOWNPAYMENT
ASSISTANCE, AND WE PROVIDE WHAT
I THINK IS PROBABLY THE MOST
UNIQUE PART OF OUR OPERATION
WELCOME HOME, WE PROVIDE AN
INSURANCE THAT IF THE VETERAN IS
CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY, OR IF THE
VETERAN LOSES THEIR JOB, WE'LL
PAY THEIR PRINCIPLE AND INTEREST
FOR SIX MONTHS.

FOR ME, WHEN WE CREATED THIS
PROGRAM I SAW FIRST-HAND AND
HEARD FIRST-HAND VETERANS WHO
WERE CALLED UP, EITHER NATIONAL
GUARD OR RESERVE, WHO MAYBE
THEIR COMPANY DIDN'T MAKE UP THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MILITARY
PAY AND THE PAY THEY WERE
GETTING.

AND THEY WERE LEAVING NOT
KNOWING WHAT THE HOMEFRONT WAS
GOING TO BE LIKE IN TERMS OF
PAYING FOR THAT MORTGAGE.

WE CREATED AT MASS HOUSING THIS
SAFETY NET THAT WE WOULD PUT IN

PLACE, THE INSURANCE THAT WOULD ENSURE THAT OUR MEN WHO WERE GOING OFF DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR HOMES WHILE THEY WERE AWAY.

AND YET AT THE SAME TIME, VETERANS COMING HOME WHO WERE WORKING, AND MAY HAVE LOST THEIR JOB BECAUSE OF A SHUTDOWN OR WHATEVER IT MAYBE, WE WOULD OFFER THEM FOR THE SIX MONTHS AS WELL.

AND MASS HOUSING HAS SOME GREAT PROGRAMS.

AND I WOULD RECOMMEND YOUR SON WHEN HE COMES HOME, TO REALLY CHECK OUT MASS HOUSING AND THE FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER PROGRAMS WE HAVE THERE.

>> I WILL CERTAINLY SEND HIM THAT WAY.

IS THERE A WAY THAT WE KNOW WHEN THE BOSTON RESIDENTS COME BACK?

IS THERE A TRIGGER?

OR IS THERE KIND OF -- YOUR EXAMPLE EARLIER WAS PERFECT.

PEOPLE NEED TO BE REMINDED, IT IS A GREAT QUOTE.

IS THERE A WAY THAT TRIGGERS SO WHEN HE DOES GET BACK AND COMES BACK TO HYDE PARK, IS THERE SOMETHING HE IS A BOSTON RESIDENT, THEY CAN GET HIM IN INFORMATION?

>> SURE.

WE WORK WITH THE STATE AND THIS GETS FLAGGED WHEN IT OCCURS AND WE GET NOTIFIED, TOO.

AND THEY WILL GET A LETTER TALKING ABOUT SOME OF THE WELCOME HOME BONUSES THAT'S AVAILABLE TO THEM THERE, AND THEN WE REACH OUT TO THEM AS WELL.

>> THAT'S AWESOME.

I WILL BE CALLING YOU IN THREE YEARS.

>> ALL RIGHT.

>> THREE YEARS, 13 WEEKS APPARENTLY, UNLESS HE RE-UPS, YOU NEVER KNOW.

>> COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

>> THANK YOU MR. CHAIR.

A COUPLE OF QUICK QUESTIONS.

IT WAS A TERRIFIC, COMPREHENSIVE
OVERVIEW.

AND COMMISSIONER YOU STARTED
ABOUT THE FASTER GROWING NETWORK
IS FEMALE VETERANS.

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO OUR DEAR
FRIEND AND NEW CONSTITUENT WE
STOLE FROM SOUTH BOSTON, WE DID
AN EVENT AT THE HOUSE FOR
VETERANS FOR RETURNING FEMALE
VETERANS AND SERVICE WOMEN, AND
IT WAS REALLY WELL ATTENDED AND
WORTHWHILE.

I THINK, I DON'T KNOW IT
DEFINITELY, BUT I WOULD HAVE
TO VENTURE A GUESS THAT I
PROBABLY REPRESENT THE ONLY CITY
COUNCIL DISTRICT IN AMERICA WITH
TWO V.A. HOSPITALS, AND I AM
PROUD TO WORK WITH BOTH STAFF.
AND THE ROXBURY V.A., WE WERE
THERE FOR THE PROGRAM THAT THEY
WERE CHOSEN FOR, AND CAN YOU
TALK ABOUT THAT PROGRAM.

TOMMY, YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT
AGING IN THE PLACE OF THE
VIETNAM AREA VETS ARE GETTING
OLDER.

>> SURE.

WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE
SUCH GREAT MEDICAL FACILITIES
FOR OUR VETERANS HERE IN BOSTON.
AND THE PARTNERSHIP THAT CAME UP
HIGHLIGHTS NOT JUST VETERANS BUT
CAREGIVERS.

AND THE OPPORTUNITY CAME UP TO
BECOME HIDDEN HEROES CITY, WE
DEFINITELY EMBRACED THAT.

AND I THINK IT'S SOMETHING THAT
WE'LL DEFINITELY HAVE EFFORT TO
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THAT AS
WELL.

AND YEAH, THERE'S -- I THINK WE
HAVE, I CAN'T SPEAK SPECIFICALLY
TO SOME OF THE OTHER PROGRAMS
THAT ARE ON THERE, BUT I KNOW
THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY FROM THE
V.A. WE WERE TALKING EARLIER
ABOUT THE FANTASTIC WOMEN
VETERAN SERVICES IN J.P.
ESPECIALLY.

THEY HAVE DONE A PHENOMENAL JOB
IN BUILDING UP THAT PROGRAM.

I AM PERSONALLY A USER AS WELL

AND WOMEN WHO HAVE COME ACROSS
THE COUNTRY JUST TO GO TO THE
J.P. V.A. BECAUSE IT IS A 5-STAR
FACILITY.

>> THAT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR.
I AM NOT A LAWYER, BUT I KNOW I
LEARNED ONE THING ON PERRY MASON
IS TO ASK A QUESTION YOU KNOW
THE ANSWER TO.

I AM A HUGE PROPONENT OF THE
THANK EVENT.
WHEN WILL THE THANK EVENT TAKE
PLACE?

>> ACTUALLY AT THE TIMES GOING
TO BE TAKING PLACE OCTOBER 13.

>> FANTASTIC.

>> AND JUST TO CONTINUE TALKING
ABOUT THE V.A., THAT WILL BE
HOSTED BY THE V.A. IN WEST
ROXBURY.

AND MORE INFORMATION WILL
FOLLOW, AND I WILL MAKE SURE,
SIR, TO GET THAT TO YOU.

>> ANYWAY I CAN BE HELPFUL, MY
OFFICE CAN BE HELPFUL.

WE ARE READY AND AT YOUR
SERVICE.

IT IS A WONDERFUL THING AND VERY
HE CAN SIGHTED ABOUT THAT.

THANK YOU FOR THAT.

>> AND WE HAVE THE OPERATION
THANK EVENT NEXT SATURDAY IN THE
SOUTH END, BACK BAY
NEIGHBORHOODS.

AND THAT WILL BE AT THE
BLACKSTONE.

>> HAVE YOU BEEN -- ONCE YOU
CONCLUDE WEST ROXBURY, YOU HAVE
BEEN IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD?

>> CORRECT.

>> THAT'S GREAT.

AND THEN START ALL OVER AGAIN.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

START MARCH THROUGH NOVEMBER.

>> WHICH HAS THE MOST VETERANS?

>> DORCHESTER.

>> OF COURSE.

YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING I THINK
THAT'S REALLY INTERESTING I
HADN'T THOUGHT OF.

YOU TALK ABOUT JOBS, SORT OF THE
BIGGER ISSUES, HOUSING, JOBS.

NON-PUBLIC SAFETY JOBS.

THOSE ARE GREAT JOBS AND SO MANY

OF OUR INCREDIBLY TALENTED
POLICEMEN AND WOMEN,
FIREFIGHTERS COME FROM THE
SERVICE.

HAS THE CITY EVER DONE, MAYBE
THE CITY IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE STATE, A JOB FAIR
SPECIFICALLY FOR VETERANS FOR
POTENTIAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES
WITHIN CITY OR STATE GOVERNMENT
THAT AREN'T NECESSARILY IN THE
PUBLIC SAFETY REALM?

>> I BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN JOB
FAIRS BEING HELD BOTH AT THE
CITY OR STATE LEVEL.

AND EVEN IN NONPROFIT WORLD.
I SAY THIS, I DON'T KNOW 100%.
BUT I THINK SOMETIMES WHEN THE
JOB FAIRS ARE DONE, THEY ARE
DONE BECAUSE PEOPLE FEEL GOOD
THEY ARE HAVING A JOB FAIR.
BUT HOW MANY JOBS ARE ACTUALLY
MADE AVAILABLE TO THESE MEN AND
WOMEN, THAT'S WHAT I KIND OF GET
A RUB AGAINST.

IS THAT YEAH, IT FEELS GOOD, WE
ALL FEEL GOOD WHEN WE ARE TRYING
TO DO SOMETHING.

BUT IF YOU ARE GOING TO COME TO
THE TABLE, COME TO THE TABLE
WITH SOMETHING.

COME TO THE TABLE SAYING WE HAVE
THESE MANY OPENINGS THAT WE'RE
LOOKING FOR.

AND THEN I THINK YOU'LL SEE THE
REAL SUCCESS OF THE JOB FAIRS.
WE ALL WANT TO FEEL GOOD, GET
THE PAT ON THE BACK, BUT WHEN WE
TALK ABOUT THE MEN AND WOMEN
COMING OUT OF THE MILITARY WITH
THE GREAT EXPERIENCE AND
TRAINING THEY HAVE, THERE HAS TO
BE A PLACE FOR THESE MEN AND
WOMEN TO WORK BOTH AT A CITY
AND/OR A STATE LEVEL.

>> I COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU ANY
MORE.

AND MAYBE THAT COULD BE YOUR
INFLUENCE OF HAVING A CITY,
STATE, PUBLIC JOB FAIR WHERE WE
COULD RECORD THAT DATA, HOW MANY
JOBS OFFERED, HOW MANY
APPLICATIONS COME, AND MAKE SURE
WE DON'T LIMIT ONLY TO PUBLIC

SAFETY.

>> I CAN SAY AS A MARINE, NOT ANYBODY IN THE MARINE CORPS IS THE TRIGGER.

WE HAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORKED IN MECHANICS AND IN COMPUTERS, AND HAVE WORKED IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS THAT IT TAKES TO MAKE ANY ORGANIZATION GREAT.

SO THERE ARE SOME VERY TELLING AND QUALIFIED PEOPLE COMING UP, OF ALL OF OUR MILITARY SERVICES.

>> THANK YOU ALL AND THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.

I APOLOGIZE, I HAVE TO LEAVE, BUT I WILL REVIEW THE REST OF THIS AT A LATER TIME.

THANK YOU AND HAPPY LABOR DAY.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR O'MALLEY. COUNCILOR PRESSLEY?

>> THANK YOU, THANK YOU

MR. CHAIR.

AND THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.

AND ECHOING THE WORDS OF MY COLLEAGUE, COUNCILOR O'MALLEY FOR YOUR ROBUST AND COMPREHENSIVE TESTIMONY.

LOOKING THROUGH THE PACKET, SO ENCOURAGED TO SEE THE RESOURCES TO MEET OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES.

AND THOSE LOOKING TO MAINTAIN SOBRIETY, AND I AM SURE THERE ARE MANY MORE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF.

I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT WHAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS WITH OUR VFW POST AND HOW MANY WE HAVE. AND ARE THOSE KEPT ALIVE ONLY BY PRIVATE DONATION?

WHAT IS THE STATE OF THEM?

WHAT IS YOUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THEM?

AND HOW MANY EXIST WITHIN THE CITY OF BOSTON?

>> I FEEL LIKE THE NUMBER IS VARYING BECAUSE THEY ARE HAVING A MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE FROM THE ONES THAT WE INTERACT WITH.

EVERY YEAR WE GO FOR OUR FLAG PLACEMENT ON MEMORIAL DAY, AND IN THE PAST RELIED HEAVILY ON

THE VFW AND THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST TO ASSIST US IN THAT WORK,
BECAUSE A LOT OF THEIR
MEMBERSHIP IS AGING, IT IS
DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO DO THAT
WORK.

SO WE ARE PULLING IN THE JRTC
UNITS AND GETTING YOUTH INVOLVED
THERE AT WELL.

BUT THERE ARE STILL POSTS THAT
ACTIVE.

I CAN THINK OF 1018, THE VFW
POLICE POST AND THE CARTER POST
AS WELL.

BRINGING SOME AWARENESS TO NEEDS
THEY ARE LOOKING AT AS WELL.

I CAN'T SPEAK TO THE EXACT
NUMBER AT THIS POINT.

>> LESS THAN 10?

LESS THAN 5?

>> I WOULD SAY LESS THAN 20.

>> LESS THAN 20, OK.

ALL RIGHT.

AND ONE OF THE REASONS TO YOUR
POINTS, MY NEXT QUESTION IS
ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DOING TO
FOSTER THE INTERGENERATIONAL
COMMUNITY BUILDING.

I HEARD FROM A NUMBER OF YOUNGER
VETS THAT THEY DON'T SUPPORT THE
POST BECAUSE SOMETIMES THEY FEEL
UNWELCOMED.

OR THEY JUST DON'T FEEL THAT
THERE IS -- I JUST THINK THEY
WANT TO STAY HOW CAN WE FOSTER
THAT INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY
BUILDING AND MAKE SURE WE ARE
MEETING THE UNIQUE NEED OF OUR
YOUNGER VETERANS AS WELL.

>> I THINK THAT'S A GREAT
QUESTION COUNCILOR.

IT IS ONE THAT AS A VIETNAM
VETERAN I STRUGGLED WITH WHEN I
CAME HOME AND RELUCTANT TO JOIN
THE VFW, LEGION, WHATEVER POST
IT MAYBE.

AND I THINK IT IS ONE THAT THE
QUESTION, I THINK, IT SPEAKS TO
HOW THE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TO
CHANGE.

I THINK, AND AGAIN I CAN SAY
THIS BECAUSE I AM OLD ENOUGH AND
I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH THAT WE HAVE
TO START HAVING PROGRAMS THAT

WOULD THEN BE OF INTEREST FOR
YOUNGER VETERANS TO JOIN.
NO LONGER FOR A PLACE TO GO AND
HAVE A CHEAP BEER AND CIGARETTE
AND TELL WAR STORIES, THOSE ARE
BYGONE YEARS.
AND I THINK WHAT THE
ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TO DO IS
REALLY THINK ABOUT HOW DO WE
CHANGE, AND CHANGE IN A WAY THAT
ENCOURAGES THESE YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN TO JOIN AND TO KEEP THESE
POSTS VIABLE.
SO YEAH, I THINK IT'S A CULTURE
CHANGE WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION
ITSELF.
I THINK MANY OF THE POSTS NOW, I
THINK THE VIETNAM GUYS MAYBE THE
MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THERE.
AND MANY OF THE VIETNAM GUYS
KNOW THE STRUGGLES WE HAD WHEN
WE TRIED TO JOIN SOME OF THESE
POSTS AND WERE HIT WITH THIS
TYPICAL, YOU KNOW, STEREOTYPES
PLACED ON US AS RETURNING
VETERANS.
SO I THINK IT'S A CHALLENGE THAT
THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TO
REALLY STRUGGLE WITH AND TAKE
ON.
>> THANK YOU.
I HAVE KNOWN YOU SINCE YOU WORK
FOR JOHN KERRY, ALWAYS YOU TRUE
TALENT AND TELL IT LIKE IT IS,
AND WE APPRECIATE IT.
COMMISSIONER, TO THAT END, ARE
VETERANS AT THE TABLE WHEN IT
COMES TO THE DEVELOPING OF
PROGRAMMING?
HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE THAT IF
THEY ARE AN ADVISORY COUNCILOR,
HOW ARE THEY APPOINTED, HOW LONG
DO THEY SERVE ON IT, DO THEY
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS IN A
REPORT?
IS IT INTERGENERATIONALLY
DIVERSION, RACIALLY, SEXUAL
ORIENTATION?
>> ASIDE FROM THE TRADITIONAL
POST, I THINK A LOT OF THE LURNG
-- RETURNING VETERANS,
ESPECIALLY IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN,
DEVELOPED NEW PROGRAMS THAT CALL
TO THE NEEDS THEY ARE LOOKING

FOR.

THEY ARE LOOKING TO BE
PHYSICALLY ACTIVE SO THAT THEY
HAVE -- THERE IS AN ORGANIZATION
CALLED TEAM RED, WHITE AND BLUE.
PRIMARILY SOME OF OUR YOUNGER
GENERATION COMING BACK.

OR THEY ARE VERY
MISSION-ORIENTATED.

YOU KNOW CAPITALIZING ON THE
SKILLSET THEY HAD IN THE
MILITARY.

NOW THEY ARE TAKING THAT INTO
THE COMMUNITIES WITH ORGANIZES
SUCH AS THE MISSION CONTINUES.
SO WHILE THERE ARE SEVERAL OF
THESE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS,
WE DO HAVE A COLLABORATIVE THAT
DOES GET TOGETHER AND KIND OF
TALK ABOUT THE CHALLENGES
SURROUNDING THESE ORGANIZATIONS,
AND FIGURING OUT HOW WE ARE
FILLING THOSE GAPS.

THE GREATER BOSTON VETERANS
COLLABORATIVE ACTUALLY MEETS
EVERY OTHER MONTH AND HAS BEEN
PRETTY REGULARLY FOR THE PAST
THREE YEARS.

AND AT THE TABLE THERE ARE
ORGANIZATIONS JUST LIKE TEAM
RED, WHITE AND BLUE AND A FEW OF
THE NEWER ORGANIZATIONS.

>> OK THANK YOU.

AND JUST ONE MORE THING,
MR. CHAIRMAN.

SO ALSO JUST VERY QUICKLY A
STATEMENT.

I JUST WANT TO ENCOURAGE US, IF
WE ARE NOT ALREADY
INTENTIONALLY, TO ENGAGE THE
ARTS COMMUNITY.

I THINK IT'S A VERY ACCESSIBLE
WAY FOR FOLKS TO BUILD COMMUNITY
TO GET THE HEALING THAT THEY
NEED.

OFTENTIMES NOT EVEN AWARE, IT IS
NOT AS OBVIOUS AS GO TO A
COUNSELOR, BUT PARTICIPATING
RELATIVE TO ARTS AND CULTURE.
IF THAT IS NOT A PARTNERSHIP,
ENCOURAGE THAT WHETHER IT IS
CONCERTS OR MAYBE THE MUSEUM
GIVES A DISCOUNT IF YOU ARE A
VETERAN FOR A SPECIFIC DAY YOU

CAN BRING YOUR FAMILY, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

AND THE LAST THING, PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS SPEAKING TO THE LINE OF QUESTIONS BY MY COLLEAGUES, COUNCILOR O'MALLEY AND I DIDN'T HEAR ALL THE ANSWER, EXCUSE ME, BECAUSE I WAS TAKING COPIOUS NOTES.

BUT WHAT DID WE SEE SOME OF THE VIABLE PATHWAYS OUTSIDE OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR RETURNING VETERANS?

ARE THERE INDUSTRIES DOMINATED BY THEM THAT ARE ALSO ALMOST RELIABLE INDUSTRIES HERE? SO HEALTHCARE OR PERHAPS BEING AN ENGINEER.

YOU KNOW WHAT CAN WE DO TO STRENGTHEN THOSE PATHWAYS SHORT OF THE EARMARKING OF A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THINGS THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING FOR OTHER GROUPS.

>> I THINK ONE WAY, COUNCILOR, WOULD BE TO EDUCATE SOME OF THE COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS, EVEN AT A CITY LEVEL.

EDUCATE THEM AS TO HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND READ A DD214 WHEN A YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN COMING OUT OF THE MILITARY, SITTING BEFORE THEM APPLYING FOR A JOB.

AND THE DD214 GIVES SOMEWHAT OF A HISTORY OF THEIR TIME IN THE MILITARY, BUT UNDERSTAND THE QUALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SITTING THERE WITH YOU WHO HAS THREE, FOUR, MAYBE EIGHT YEARS IN THE MILITARY.

WHETHER IT'S AT AN ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL OR A LEADERSHIP LEVEL.

I MEAN THESE QUALITIES THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS BRINGING TO THE TABLE THAT I THINK IS SO OFTEN --

>> VERY TRANSFERABLE.

>> VERY TRANSFERABLE AND SO OFTEN OVERLOOKED.

AND I THINK AGAIN IT'S AN INFORMATIONAL KIND OF PROCESS THAT I THINK HAS TO HAPPEN AND PEOPLE NEED TO KIND OF RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A LEARNING PROCESS

TO THAT.

THE FLIP SIDE OF THAT WOULD BE
FOR THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN
COMING HOME, HOW TO SELL
THEMSELVES.

HOW TO TALK WITH THEIR
EXPERIENCE, WHETHER IT WAS A
SQUAD LEADER, TAKING CARE OF
EIGHT OR 12 MEN, WHAT THE
LEADERSHIP ENTAILED.

MAYBE IT IS A DUAL TRACK, BUT I
THINK IT IS ONE I THINK NEEDS TO
HAPPEN IN A WAY THAT, YOU KNOW,
CAN REALLY PUT THESE YOUNG MEN
AND WOMEN COMING HOME IN THE
BEST POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENT.

>> THANK YOU STRETCH.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR.

COUNCILOR WU.

>> THANK YOU.

MY COLLEAGUES HAD GREAT
QUESTIONS, I LEARNED SO MUCH
ALREADY.

AND ONE, PUSHING
INTERGENERATIONAL LINES.

WE'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT VARIOUS
GENERATIONS WITHIN THE VETERANS
AND MILITARY FAMILIES'
COMMUNITY, AND ALL OF THE
RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

WE WANT TO KEEP EXPANDING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETURNING
VETERANS.

SO JUST THINKING ABOUT WHAT ARE
THE WAYS IN WHICH OUR VETERANS,
WHO ARE ROLE MODELS ARE
ATTRACTING WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE
EITHER IN BOSTON SCHOOLS OR
ELSEWHERE IN THE COMMUNITY, TO
MAKE SURE THAT OUR SCHOOL-AGE
KIDS ARE GETTING EXPOSURE TO
THESE ROLE MODELS, LEARNING
ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT
THIS PATHWAY MIGHT OPEN UP FOR
THEM DOWN THE LINE AS WE ARE
CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN THOSE
PATHWAYS AND MAKE SURE THERE ARE
MORE AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES.

>> SURE, I KNOW THE GRTC
PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUING TO LOOK
FOR SUPPORT THERE.

BUT THERE ARE ALSO
ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE -- I
CAN THINK OF THE TRAVIS

FOUNDATION, WHO HAS A CHARACTER DOES MATTER PROGRAM. WHERE THEY HAVE VETERANS WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR COLLEAGUES, OR SOMEONE WHO IS INFLUENTIAL TO THEM IN THE SERVICE. AND SHARING THEIR STORY WITH OUR YOUTH.

THE OTHER THING WE'RE DOING THROUGH OUR OFFICE SPECIFICALLY, AND I THINK ALL OF THE COUNCILORS HERE KNOW ABOUT THE U.S. SQUARE PROGRAMS.

SO WE HAVE ABOUT 1200 OF THOSE SQUARES WITHIN THE CITY OF BOSTON AND WE ARE ADDING A PLAQUE TO SEARCH OF THEM SO IT'S NOT JUST THE NAME, NOW YOU'RE GETTING THE STORY BEHIND THAT PERSON AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT THEY CAME FROM AND IMPACTED. THROUGH THE CENTER WE'RE HAVING OUR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS, INTERNS COME IN AND HELP US DEVELOP THOSE BIOGRAPHIES.

SO THEY ARE GETTING AN OPPORTUNITYING OF THOSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS AND THOSE THAT ARE PART OF THE HISTORY OF BOSTON AS WELL.

>> WOULD THOSE BE AVAILABLE ONLINE, TOO, JUST ALL TOGETHER?
>> WITHIN THE BIOGRAPHY A QR CODE SO YOU CAN ACTUALLY SCAN IT AND IT GOES TO AN ONLINE MEMORIAL AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF LOCATING ALL OF THOSE ON OUR CITY WEBSITE.

>> IF I CAN MAKE A RECOMMENDATION, COUNCILOR. I WOULD ALSO SAY BOSTON IS SO UNIQUE IN WAYS OF HOW EACH COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES SERVICE AND SACRIFICE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO GREW UP IN THAT COMMUNITY. WE HAVE MEMORIALS THAT DOT THE LANDSCAPE OF THIS CITY. AND, YOU KNOW, IT WOULD BE MY THOUGHT THAT MAYBE SOME SCHOOLS THAT ARE CLOSE BY WHERE THERE'S A MEMORIAL SHOULD HAVE A DAY WHEN ONE OR TWO CLASSES GO TO THE MEMORIAL, SEE THE NAME ON THAT MEMORIAL, HEAR THE STORIES

OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ON THERE, AND THAT MAY GIVE THEM A LITTLE SENSE OF THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE THAT SOMEONE FROM THAT COMMUNITY GAVE IN ALL OUR WARS.

>> THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.

ADD ARE MORE WORK TO THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, WHAT DID YOU GIVE THE TIMELINE LOOKS REASONABLE TO GET THROUGH THE 1200 HERO SQUARES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADD MORE OF THE OTHER TYPES OF MEMORIALS AND STATUES, OR IS THE 1200 ALREADY A PROJECT THAT IS LAID OUT FOR A WHILE?

>> I FEEL LIKE IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN DEVELOP INTO THE CURRENT PROJECT.

SO IT WOULDN'T BE BAD.

>> GREAT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR WU. AND THE FINAL QUESTION, TOM, NEXT WEEK IS THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE SOUTH BOSTON VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.

WHY IS THAT A SIGNIFICANT, IMPORTANT DAY IN OUR COMMUNITY?

>> WELL THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT, COUNCILOR.

BACK IN 1978 I ORGANIZED A BREAKFAST TO REMEMBER TWO OF MY BEST FRIENDS THAT WERE KILLED IN VIETNAM IN '68.

AND IT STRUCK ME FROM THAT BREAKFAST, AND CELEBRATION AFTERWARDS, HOW IMPORTANT WAS IT FOR THOSE FAMILIES TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE STILL REMEMBER AND CARE ABOUT THEIR SON?

AND SO IT GOT ME THINKING ABOUT HOW MANY OTHER FAMILIES IN THE TOWN HAVE LOST SOMEONE AND IT TURNED OUT BOSTON LOST 25 BETWEEN 1967-1969 SO I ORGANIZED A COMMITTEE AND WE GOT TOGETHER AND WENT THROUGH THE PROCESS OF WHICH YOUR DAD WAS SO HELPFUL, AND WE BUILT A MEMORIAL FOR THE 25 MEN FROM THE TOWN.

AND I AM PROUD OF THAT.

BUT I'M EQUALLY PROUD OF THE
FACT THAT FOR 37 YEARS THIS
YEAR, EVERY YEAR WE HAVE GONE
BACK AND REMEMBERED OUR 25
FRIENDS.

GONE BACK AND SALUTED THE MEN
AND WOMEN WHO SERVED DURING THAT
TIME PERIOD.

AND IT WAS THE COMMIT MANY WE
MADE BACK IN 1981, AND IT IS ONE
THAT, AS I SAID, I AM EXTREMELY
PROUD OF WE CONTINUED TO DO, AND
THIS YEAR WE ARE DEDICATING OUR
DAY TO SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN, WHO
WE ALL KNOW JUST PASSED.

AND I THINK AS A VIETNAM VETERAN
AND SOMEONE FROM THAT
GENERATION, I THINK IT IS
IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THE MEN
LIKE JOHN MCCAIN WHO HAVE COME
HOME AND SERVED HIS COUNTRY, AND
CONTINUE TO SERVE LONG AFTER HIS
TIME IN THE MILITARY.

SO WE'LL HAVE THAT CEREMONY AT
11:30 AT THE PARK AND ONCE AGAIN
WE'LL REMEMBER AND PAY RESPECTS
TO OUR FRIENDS.

>> THANK YOU, TOM.

AND THANK YOU TO THE
COMMISSIONER.

THANK YOU TO THE DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER.

IT WAS AN HONOR TO HAVE ALL
THREE OF YOU HERE TO TESTIFY.
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE TO OUR CITY, TO OUR
VETERANS, TO OUR MILITARY
FAMILIES.

AND I AM PROUD TO WORK WITH ALL
THREE OF YOU.

SO I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU
FOR YOUR TIME TODAY.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOR WHAT
YOU DO FOR OUR VETERANS ACROSS
THE CITY.

AT THIS TIME I'M GOING TO
DISMISS THIS PANEL AND WE'LL
TAKE A BRIEF RECESS, AND THEN
WE'LL GET READY FOR THE SECOND
PANEL.

WE'RE IN A BRIEF RECESS.

>> THE HEARING IS NOW OPEN.

I THINK WE ARE GOING TO GO RIGHT
INTO A VIDEO.

>> THE DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH FOR HOME BASE, A VIDEO THAT YOU ARE GOING TO SEE IS A FOUR-MINUTE VIDEO.

I JUST WANT TO PREP YOU AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS.

>> THANK YOU, BILL.

[VIDEO PLAYING]

[MUSIC]

>> VETERANS PUT THEIR LIFE ON THE LINE TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS.

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A CITY AND A NATION TO BE THERE FOR OUR HEROS WHEN THEY COME HOME.

[GUNFIRE]

[MUSIC]

>> I DON'T THINK ANY OF US COME BACK THE SAME PERSON. WE ARE ALL CHANGED BY WHAT WE GO THROUGH.

>> PHYSICAL WOUNDS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL, AND WE'RE STILL LEARNING ABOUT THE INVISIBLE ONES.

AND I THINK THOSE ARE PROBABLY THE GREATER THREAT TO MY GENERATION COMING BACK, BECAUSE THEY ARE SO MISUNDERSTOOD.

>> MOMENT BASE, A RED SOX FOUNDATION AND MASS GENERAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM LOOKS TO KIM THE INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF WAR FOR VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND MARE FAMILIES.

INVISIBLE WOUNDS SUCH AS TRAUMATIC STRESS, TRAUMATIC BRAIN DISORDER, SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION.

AND OFFERING A CLINIC INCLUDING COUPLES THERAPY, SUPPORT GROUPS AND EDUCATION.

THEY TREAT THEIR PATIENTS HOLISTICALLY, OFFERING WELLNESS AND FITNESS PROGRAMS TO PROPHOTO OVERALL HEALTH.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY BONDS, AND CLASSES TO STRENGTHEN THE MIND-BODY CONNECTION.

>> I'D HAVE TO GIVE THE RED SOX LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY TOM

WARNER, CREDIT FOR THE IN
INPIR -- INSPIRATION FOR A
PROGRAM LIKE IN AND WE WERE
FLATTERED TO PARTNER WITH THEM
TO CREATE THIS PROGRAM.

>> MASS GENERAL THE NUMBER ONE
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN THE
WORLD.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF WHAT WE
HAVE DONE, BUT WE ARE JUST ON
OUR WAY.

>> IN THE FALL OF 2018, HOME
BASE WILL OPEN AT NATIONAL
CENTER IN THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY
YARD.

INSIDE OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART
BUILDING, HOME BASE WILL DOUBLE
THE AMOUNT OF PATIENTS THEY
SERVE.

[MUSIC]

>> WE PUT ALL THIS TIME AND
EFFORT INTO THE COUNTRY, HELPING
SOMEBODY TO PREPARE FOR BATTLE,
BUT WE DON'T NECESSARILY FIGURE
OUT AS A NATION WHAT THE PATH
BACK TO CIVILIAN LIFE IS ALL
ABOUT.

>> MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE, WHO
IS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO
HELP THESE MEN AND WOMEN FIND
THEIR WAY HOME, HOME BASE GETS
IT.

>> LEVERAGING LOCAL AND NATIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS, AND BUILDING ON
THE EXPERTISE OF WORLD-CLASS
INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL,
SPAULDING REHABILITATION
HOSPITAL AND HARVARD MEDICAL
SCHOOL, HOME BASE IS CHANGING
THE LANDSCAPE OF CARE FOR THE
21ST CENTURY FOR VETERANS AND
MILITARY FAMILIES.

>> I WAS JUST TWO DAYS REMOVED
FROM THE BATTLEFIELD WHEN I
LANDED IN MY LIVING ROOM.
THERE WAS NO TRANSITION, NO
HELP.

IT FELT LIKE I DIDN'T BELONG IN
THE PLACE I CALLED "HOME".
I REACHED OUT FOR HELP, BUT NO
ONE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND.
I JUST WANTED OUT.
I WANTED TO DIE.

I COULDN'T TAKE THE PAIN
ANYMORE.
I CAME TO HOME BASE.
AND I TALKED ABOUT THOSE THINGS
IN THAT BOX THAT I HAD STUFF SO
DEEP DOWN THAT WERE TORTURING
ME.
I LOST ALL EMOTION RELATED TO MY
TRAUMA.
BUT SLOWLY HOME BASE GOT ME TO
FEEL AGAIN.
HOME BASE IS MY SECOND FAMILY.
BECAUSE THEY TOOK A BROKEN MAN
WHO DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE AND
TREATED NOT ONLY MY PTSD, BUT MY
ENTIRE BODY.
>> WORLD-CLASS CLINICAL CARE,
INNOVATIVE WELLNESS PROGRAMS,
EDUCATION INITIATIVES, AND
CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH TO DEVELOP
NEW TREATMENTS.
THIS IS HOME BASE.
>> THANK YOU.
THANK YOU FOR THAT PRESENTATION,
THAT VIDEO.
I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT,
TO ATTEND THE HOME BASE PROGRAM
RECENTLY AT FENWAY PARK.
THEY HAD A RUN TO HOME BASE.
THE MAYOR WAS THERE, MAYOR WALSH
AND GOVERNOR BAKER THERE AS
WELL.
BUT I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE
OPENING IN CHARLESTOWN.
BUT I DO KNOW THAT HOME BASE IS
DOING SOME EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT
WORK ACROSS OUR STATE.
SO WE JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU
FOR ALL THAT YOU GUYS ARE DOING.
>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.
WE ARE PRETTY PROUD OF OUR
PROGRAM.
WE ARE A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR
THE LAST TWO YEARS, TAKING
SERVICE MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER
THE COUNTRY AND THEIR FAMILIES.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO BE
ABLE TO DOUBLE OUR CARE NOW WHEN
WE GET TO CHARLESTOWN.
SO A GREAT RESOURCE FOR OUR
LOCAL VETERANS AS WELL.
WE HAVE THE OUT-PATIENT CLINIC
WHICH WILL BE ALSO IN
CHARLESTOWN.

>> PERFECT.

JESSE FLYNN, A MEMBER OF THE DAV
HERE IN BOSTON, ALSO A BOSTON
FIREFIGHTER.

A GOOD FRIEND AND WE'RE VERY
PROUD OF IT.

WHAT'S THE LATEST THAT THE DAV
IS SEEING OF RETURNING VETERANS,
WHAT IS THEIR BIGGEST ISSUE, BUT
ALSO WHAT ARE YOU SEEING FROM
SOME OF THE OLDER VETERANS THAT
ARE DISABLED?

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSING THEIR VA
CARE?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES?
WHAT ARE YOU SEEING IN THAT
REGARD?

>> SO EMPLOYMENT IS ALWAYS A BIG
ISSUE WITH US AND WE HAVE A JOB
FAIR TODAY.

I KNOW WE HAVE 98 EXHIBITORS AND
THAT'S PARTNERED WITH RECRUIT
MILITARY AND OUR NATIONAL
ORGANIZATION, THEY BRING THAT
INTO TOWN.

WE HAD MULTIPLE JOB FAIRS AT
GILLETT.

IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT, AND I
HAVE BEEN TO IT A COUPLE OF
TIMES, AND I WAS LEERY OF JOB
FAIRS TOO AS TALKED ABOUT
EARLIER, BUT THIS ONE SEEMS TO
BE OFFERING SOME REAL POSITIONS,
INCLUDING ENCREDITS -- ENCORE,
AND A GOOD RESOURCE FOR US.

AND EMPLOYMENT IS ALWAYS A BIG
ISSUE AND DISABILITY
COMPENSATION AND V.A. HEALTHCARE
AND GETTING AN ACCESS TO THOSE
TWO THINGS IS SOMETHING WE FOCUS
ON AND SOMETHING THAT WE
CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE AS WE COME
HOME TODAY.

OUR NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE IN
THE J.F.K. BUILDING SERVES
HUNDREDS OF VETERANS A YEAR.
THE NUMBERS FROM 2016 BUT THE
NUMBERS HAVE NOT DROPPED OR
INCREASED IN SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT.
IN 2016 THEY REPRESENTED 4,982
MASS VETERANS BEFORE THE
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION FOR
DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND
OBTAINED \$87 MILLION IN

RETROACTIVE COMPENSATION
PAYMENT.

THEY DO A GREAT JOB UP THERE.
AND SOMETIMES THAT'S THE FIRST
STEP TO GET GUYS INVOLVED IN THE
V.A. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.
SO NOT ONLY ARE THEY GETTING THE
DISABILITY RATING COMPENSATION,
BUT THEY START GETTING TREATMENT
AT OUR V. A FACILITIES.
AND WITH THE OLDER GENERATION,
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS, THE
VIETNAM VETERANS, TRANSPORTATION
TWO AND FROM MEDICAL
APPOINTMENTS IS A BIG ISSUE.
AND THAT'S PROBABLY OUR BIGGEST
PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
MASSACHUSETTS, IS WE PROVIDE
FREE-OF-CHARGE TRANSPORTATION TO
AND FROM THE V.A. MEDICAL
FACILITIES FOR HEALTHCARE
TREATMENT BY APPOINTMENT.
WE PURCHASED OVER 65 ADVANCE
SINCE 1987, LOGGED OVER 10
MILLION MILES IN THE STATE
TRANSPORTING VETERANS TO AND
FROM THE APPOINTMENTS AND THAT'S
SOMETHING WE ARE ALWAYS TRYING
TO FUND AND KEEP GOING.
IN BOSTON WE HAVE TRANSPORTATION
AT BOTH JAMAICA PLAINS AND WEST
ROXBURY HOSPITALS.

>> THANK YOU, JESSE.

I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED AT THE
BEGINNING, MAYBE WE WILL GO
THROUGH THE PANEL.
IF YOU CAN SAY YOUR NAME, YOUR
ORGANIZATION, AND TITLE.
THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL SO YOU CAN
START.

>> THANK YOU.

I AM KEVIN, AND I AM A MEMBER OF
THE OUTREACH PROGRAM AT THE HOME
BASE PROGRAM.

>> AND KEVIN, IF YOU ALSO WANT
TO GIVE AN OPENING STATEMENT.
>> NO, I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO
SAY THANK YOU FOR YOU PUTTING
THIS ON AND JUST, YOU KNOW, LIKE
COMING TOGETHER, LEARNING MORE
ABOUT WHAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
ARE UP TO.

IT IS A GREAT TO BE A PART OF
IT.

>> THANK YOU, KEVIN.
>> THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.
I AM BOB NOTCH WITH BRIGHT
MARINE THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER THERE.
I HAVE A BIT OF AN OPENING
STATEMENT.
SINCE THE EARLY 80'S, BRIGHTON
MARINE IS A TRUST ASKED QUIET
PARTNER IN THE UNIFORM SERVICE
MEMBERS, VETERANS AND FAIR
FAMILIES.
THE SUPPORT PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON
LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP WITH
U.S. FAMILY HEALTH PROGRAM,
PROVIDING TOP-TIER HEALTHCARE TO
ELIGIBLE MEMBERS, A SUBSTANTIAL
SCHOLARSHIP TO QUALIFYING SENIOR
AND JUNIOR ROTC, PROVIDER OF
LABOR AND DONATING LANDSCAPING
ESSENTIALS FOR OUR LOCAL
NEIGHBORHOOD AND STRONG
FINANCIAL DONATES TO AREA
NONPROFITS AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES.
IN EARLY 2017 THE VISION OF
CREATING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR
ALL VETERANS BECAME ATTAINABLE,
A MISSION ON BECOMING HIGHLY
VISIBLE TO THE SERVICE MEMBER
AND VETERAN COMMUNITY, AS WELL
AS THOSE WHO SERVE THEM.
THE GOAL TO CREATE A CONNECTED
COMMUNITY FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS
AND THOSE THEY SERVE.
THE UNIFORM SERVICE MEMBERS,
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
OUR MAIN EFFORTS TODAY ARE
PARTNERSHIP WITH U.S. FAMILY
HEALTH PLAN, ALTERNATIVE TO
TRICARE IN THIS REGION.
RESIDENCES AT BRIGHTON MARIE WE
TALKED BRIEFLY ABOUT EARLIER,
AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION NOW TO
PROVIDE 102 UNITS OF AFFORDABLE
HOUSING WITH VETERAN'S
PREFERENCE.
RESOURCES AT BRIGHT MARINE, GOAL
THE FIRST STOP OF THE HUB FOR
SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR MILITARY
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
GREATER BOSTON COORDINATED
VETERAN SERVICES ALREADY
ESTABLISHED, A VERTICAL NETWORK
OF COORDINATED CARE PROVIDERS

SERVING MILITARY VETERANS AND
THEIR FAMILIES, PROVIDING NO
WRONG DOOR FOR VETERANS AND WARM
HAND-OFF BETWEEN SERVICE
PROVIDERS.
THE WEB SIDE IS

COORDINATEDVETSERVICE.ORG.
AND A HOMELESS FUND THAT
BREACHES OBJECT -- OBJECT TO
RECEIVE THE KEYS FOR THE FRONT
DOOR.

AND THE LEADERSHIP WHICH IS
\$5,000 OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS
ACCORDED TO A JUNIOR AND JUNIOR
ROTC GRADUATING FROM ONE OF THE
BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
CO-CHAIR OF THE GREATER BOSTON
COLLABORATIVE AND COMMISSIONER
STERLING MENTIONED THAT
ORGANIZATION EARLIER, AN
ORGANIZATION OF OVER 200 PUBLIC,
PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT PROVIDERS
SERVING VETERANS IN THE
COMMUNITY.

AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO GROW
THE NETWORK, FINDING WAYS TO
REFILL THE GAPS AND REDUCE
REDUNDANCIES.

>> HELLO COUNCILOR FLYNN AND
COUNCILOR MCCARTHY I APPRECIATE
YOU HAVING ME HERE.
I OVERSEE UNIQUE PROGRAM CALLED
SAVE.

IT STANDS FOR STATEWIDE ADVOCACY
FOR VETERANS EMPOWERMENT.
LAUNCHED IN 2008, IT IS A
COLLABORATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT
OF VETERAN SERVICES.

IT RESULTED IN INTERAGENCY
COLLABORATION INCLUDING FUNDING,
PROGRAM MANAGE MANY, RESOURCES
AND CLINICAL SUPPORT.
THE SAFE TEAM ALSO RECEIVED
FUNDING FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND
THE TRIAL COURT, THE
MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT TO
PROVIDE PEER SUPPORT FOR
VETERANS IN THE COMMONWEALTH WHO
ARE STRUGGLING WITH ISSUES
REGARDING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

AND ACCESSING HELP THAT WAY.
WE DO PRODUCTIVE OUTREACH IN THE
COMMUNITY.

A MISSION PROVIDING AWARENESS
AND SUICIDE PREVENTION, MENTAL
HEALTH AWARENESS, ADVOCACY FOR
VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICE IS
THE TOP PRIORITY FOR SAVE.

AND THE COORDINATORS ARE
COMPLETELY MOBILE AND CAN MEET
WITH THE VETERANS IN THE
COMMUNITY OF THE GOAL IS TO
EMPOWER THE VETERANS TO NAVIGATE
THE SYSTEM OF BENEFITS AND
SERVICES TO THEM AND THEIR
FAMILIES.

EVERYONE ON THE TEAM, THEY ARE
MOBILE, THEY ARE OUTFITTED WITH
THE EQUIPMENT THEY NEED.
THEY MEET WITH VETERANS IN THE
COMMUNITY, AT LOCAL DUNKIN'
DONUTS, AT THEIR HOUSE, AND HELP
TO ACCESS THEM WITH SERVICES.

THE SAFE TEAM COMPRISED OF
VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS.
THE KEY COMPONENT IS THE
PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT.
SO EVERYONE ON THE TEAM ARE
VETERANS OR FAMILY MEMBERS.
AND A LOT OF THE MEMBERS
STRUGGLE WITH SOME OF THE SAME
ISSUES THAT THE CLIENTS THEY ARE
WORKING WITH.

WE ALSO HAVE -- WE HAVE OUR
PEERS BROKEN OUT BY COUNTY, SO
EVERY REGIONAL AREA HAS AN
OUTREACH COORDINATOR THAT WILL
BE OUT IN THE COMMUNITY, BE AT
THE LOCAL EVENTS, RESOURCES,
WHATEVER IT MAYBE, AND HELP THEM
CONNECT TO SERVICES.

WE ALSO HAVE A FAMILY OUTREACH
COORDINATOR.
SHE WORKS WITH ALL OF OUR FAMILY
MEMBERS.

SHE HELPS CONNECT THEM TO
SERVICES, FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS,
THAT SORT OF THING.

ALSO BECAUSE THE TEAM ARE PEERS
AND NOT CLINICIANS OR DOCTORS
AND WE ARE A SUICIDE PREVENTION
PROGRAM, WE DEAL WITH A LOT OF
HIGH-RISK, WE CONSULT WITH
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CARE WHICH

HELPS US WITH ANY CLINICAL
ADVISOR BACKING WHEN DEALING
WITH CLIENTS WHO MAY BE AFTER
HOURS OR MAY NEED IMMEDIATE
SERVICES.

SO THE SAFE TEAM WORKS WITH ALL
GENERATIONS OF VETERANS WITH A
SPECIAL EMPHASIS PLACED ON
RECENTLY-RETURNING VETERANS FROM
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

AND VETERANS ASSESSED FOR ISSUES
AND CREATE AN ACTION PLAN
HELPING THE VETERAN ADDRESS AND
RESOLVE KEY ISSUES THAT HELPS
PREVENT THE POST-TRAUMATIC.

AND THE VETERANS ARE REFERRED TO
THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE THEY ARE SENT TO
LOCAL DSO'S, EVERY CITY AND TOWN
HAS ONE AND OFFER RESOURCES AND
BENEFITS.

AND THAT'S A QUICK ACCESS POINT
FOR VETERANS IN THE
COMMONWEALTH.

SOME OF THE COLLABORATIONS WE'VE
DONE OVER THE YEARS, WE HELPED
WITH THE SMOKING CESSATION
PROGRAM FOR VETERANS AND
FAMILIES RESULTING IN 4,000
VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS
TAKING THE FIRST STEPS TO QUIT
SMOKING AND WORKED WITH THE
BUREAU OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION WITH VETERANS AND
FAMILIES, DO A LOT OF EDUCATION
AND TRAININGS, THOSE SORT OF
THINGS WITH THEM.

SINCE FEBRUARY OF 2008-2018 WE
OUTREACHED TO OF 30,000
VETERANS, AND OVER 5,000 OF THE
VETERANS RECEIVED LINCOLN
REFERRAL SERVICES.

OVER 2,000 OF VETERANS
RECEIVED DIRECT CASE MANAGEMENT
FROM OUR STAFF.

WE SUPPORTED BOSTON PUBLIC
HEALTH COMMISSION CENTERS AFTER
THE BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS.
WE WERE AT GROUND ZERO OFFERING
ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY DOWN
THERE.

WE HAVE ASSISTED WITH THE
OPENING OF THE FIVE VETERANS
COURTS.

WE HAVE APPEARED IN EACH ONE

HELPING THE VETERANS IN THOSE PROGRAMS.

WE PROVIDE A -- TO FIRST RESPONDERS, COLLEGE STAFF, CLERKSHIP, JUDGES AND PROBATION DEPARTMENT.

IT'S TRAINING FOR A MILITARY CULTURE, AWARENESS TYPE TRAINING.

AS WELL AS WE COLLABORATE WITH THE STATE/FEDERAL AGENCIES TO BETTER CONNECT THESE VETERANS WITH THE RESOURCES.

THE ONE LAST THING I WILL ADD IS WE, WE WORK WITH ALL AREAS.

WE WORK WITH ALL DISCHARGE TYPES.

OBVIOUSLY DEPENDING ON THE VETERANS CIRCUMSTANCES THEY'RE ELIGIBLE FOR DIFFERENT BENEFITS. IT'S OUR JOB TO CONNECT THEM TO THE RIGHT RESOURCES THEY'RE ELIGIBLE FOR.

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND HEARING OUT OUR PROGRAM AND OUR SERVICES.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE AND THE IMPORTANT WORK YOU'RE DOING ACROSS THE STATE.

WE APPRECIATE IT STEPHEN.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON, SIR.

I'M STEVE WITH THE OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURE VETERANS BONUS PROGRAM THIS.

IS A BONUS PROGRAM FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, AWARDS BONUSSES TO SERVICE MEMBERS ORIGINALLY FROM MASSACHUSETTS THAT SERVED DURING CERTAIN WARTIME PERIODS.

THOSE ARE WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA WAR, VIETNAM CONFLICT -- GLOBAL FROM 2001 TO THE PRESENT.

THE OLDER WARS.

WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN WAR, THOSE SERVICE MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED MOST WON'T US AT THE TIME OF DISCHARGE.

THIS ARE A TO YOU OUT THERE.

WE WRECK MACHINED THAT PEOPLE CALL OUR OFFICE.

VIETNAM, BACK IN 2010 THE LAW

WAS EXTENDED FROM 1973 TO 1975.
WE FOUND RECENTLY A LOT OF THOSE
VIETNAM VETERANS HAVEN'T
RECEIVED THEIR BONUS.
WE HAVE MADE A EFFORT TO REACH
OUT TO THOSE.
LAST YEAR WE AWARDED ABOUT
\$26,000 IN VIETNAM BONUSSES.
THAT'S A PRETTY LARGE AMOUNT FOR
THAT TIME PERIOD.
THOU THE CURRENT BONUS, THE
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM WON'T
US, 2001 TO PRESS SENT.
\$500 FOR SIX MONTHS STATE SIDE
OR OVERSEAS.
A THOUSAND DOLLARS IF THE MEMBER
WAS DEPLOYED TO A IMPLEMENT
DANGER LOCATION.
TOO DOLLARS IF THE PERSON WENT
TO A SUBSEQUENTS DEPLOYMENT
OVERSEAS.
\$500 IF THE PERSON DEPLOYED A
SECOND TIME TO EMINENT DANGER
LOCATIONS.
WE RECENTLY AWARDED A CHECK FOR
\$5500 TO AN ARM YVETTE RAN WHO
RETIRED.
HE WAS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN
ABOUT SEVEN TIMES.
WE WERE PROUD TO WELCOME THAT
SERVICE MEMBER HOME.
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALLOWING ME
TO COME HERE.
OUR BIGGEST WAY TO GET THE WORD
OUT IS WORD OF MOUTH.
SO, IF YOU KNOW ANYONE, I
MENTIONED YOUR SON.
I'M SURE HE'S ELIGIBLE.
THEY CAN APPLY ACTIVE CUTIE.
THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE \$500.
ANY OTHER DEPLOYMENT THEY CAN
APPLY.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
>> THANK YOU.
THE INFORMATION IS VERY
INFORMATIVE AFPLT APPRECIATE IT
BILL WITH THE VFW.
>> GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. CHAIRMAN.
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE.
MY NAME IS BILL LABEAU.
I WANT TO SPEAK A LITTLE BIT
ABOUT WHERE THE VFW IS TODAY
VERSUS WHERE IT'S BEEN.
I THINK WE'RE ON A BETTER TRACK

NOW THAN A LONG TIME.
LAST YEAR OUR STATE KPHAPBGDER
WAS THE FIRST OEF VETERAN TO
HEAD UP A VFW DEPARTMENT.
THAT WAS RIGHT HERE IN
MASSACHUSETTS.
OUR CURRENT STATE COMMANDER,
KEITH JACKSON, I'M HERE ON BE
HALF OF.
HE IS ALSO AN OEF VETERAN.
AT THE STATE LEADERSHIP LEVEL WE
HAVE ONE VIETNAM VETERAN.
THREE ARE GULF WAR AND THE REST
ARE OEF.
THE LEADERSHIP IS GETTING
YOUNGER FOR THE VFW.
WE DID SOMETHING REMARKABLE IN
THE LAST 20 YEARS, LAST YEAR.
OUR ORGANIZATION GREW IN THE
STATE.
WE ARE PROUD OF THAT.
WE'RE WORKING ON THAT GOING
FORWARD.
THE GOAL IS TO CONTINUALLY
INCREASE.
RIGHT NOW WE HAVE 10,000
ELIGIBLE VFW VETERANS IN THE
STATE AND WE HAVE IT 2000
MEMBERS.
VFW, THEY HAVE TO BE IN IMMINENT
DANGER OR GET A CAMPAIGN MEDAL.
THAT SAID WE KNOW THERE IS A
PROBLEM WITH POSTS.
WE HAVE GOOD LOCAL POST ISSUE.
YOUNGER VETERANS HEAR FROM THE
OLDER VETERANS IT'S A BAR AND A
PLACE TO HANG OUT.
WE EVEN HEARD THAT HERE TODAY.
I'M HERE TO PUSH BACK ON THAT
MESSAGE.
WE'RE AGGRESSIVELY GOING INTO
OUR POSTS.
WE ARE A CHARTERED
CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED
ORGANIZATION.
AS SUCH WE'RE REQUIRED TO DO
CERTAIN THINGS.
HELP FELLOW VETERANS, BE
PATRIOTIC AND HELP THOSE IN THE
COMMUNITY.
IF THE POST IS NOT DOING THAT WE
SHUT THE POST DOWN AND FIX THE
PROBLEM.
WE HAVE DONE THAT AROUND BOSTON.

WE HAVE ACTIVE 20 POSTS IN
BOSTON.
THOSE HERE TODAY ARE MUCH
HEALTHIER THEN THEY HAD BEEN FOR
MANY YEARS.
HOW DO WE MEAN BY HEALTHY?
RIGHT NOW WE REORGANIZED OUR
STATE SERVICE OFFICE.
SIMILAR TO THE DMV HAS ON A
SMALLER SCALE.
THAT SMALLER SCALE OFFICE BASED
AT THE JFK BUILDING AND ACROSS
THE STATE WITH OUR STATE SERVICE
OFFICES WE HAVE SECURED
\$14 MILLION IN BENEFITS TO
DISABLED BENEFITS SINCE JANUARY.
PROPERTY 20% OF THAT IS TO
BOSTON AREA VETERANS.
OUR MISSION, OUR GOAL NOW FOR
BOSTON IS TO BRING THE VETERANS
PART OF THE POSTS THAT WE HAD TO
SHUT DOWN OVER THE PAST TEN
YEARS BACK INTO THE FOLD.
ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THE VFW
BECAUSE OF A POST SHUTTING DOWN
DOESN'T MEAN THE MEMBERS
DISAPPEAR.
THEY ARE ON THE POLES AND GET
THE MAGAZINE AND ARE MEMBERS FOR
LIFE.
WE ARE WORKING ON WHERE DO WE
BRING THEM.
WE HAVE A LOST POSTS WITHOUT A
BUILDING.
THEY MEET IN DIFFERENT
BUILDINGS.
THEY DO WHAT FULFILLS THE
CHARTER.
WE HAVE ADDED A NEW POST.
ONE IS HERE IN BOSTON.
WE ADDED ONE LAST YEAR.
THE NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
POST.
A BRAND NEW VFW POST.
MADE OF MANY VIETNAM VETERANS
THAT ARE NOW COMING INTO THE
FOLD.
THROUGH THE OUTREACH PROGRAMS
WE'RE DOING WE ARE LOOKING AT
ORGANIZATIONS.
MANY SITTING AT THE TABLE NOW.
WE HAVE A FOUNDATION FORMED AND
WE'RE SUPPORTING THE
ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE THINGS

THEY DO.
THROUGH THE POST WE ARE, THE
POST THAT'S ARE ACTIVE AND
HEALTHY.
THEY GET OUT IN THE COMMUNITY
AND WE HAVE THE YOUNGER VETERANS
COMING IN.
THE VFW IS A PLACE FOR THEM TO
GET TOGETHER WHR-FPLT IT'S A
BUILDING OR EVENT.
WE FIND THINGS FOR THEM TO DO.
THEN WE GO TO A HOME BASE AND WE
HAVE DIFFERENT GROUPS AND STUFF.
WE FIND THAT MARRIAGE IS GETTING
BETTER WITH THE YOUNGER VETS AND
THE OLDER VETS AT THE VFW.
I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THE VFW IS
ALIVE AND WELL.
WE HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE 1920.
WE'RE ON A STRONG MISSION TO
IMPROVE OUR VETERAN SERVES
THROUGH THE OTHER WH +*EL STATE.
ESPECIALLY HERE IN BOSTON.
THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF THINGS
THAT HAVE HAPPENED WITH THE
POSTS.
WE HAVE ACTIVE POSTS IN
DORCHESTER.
WE HAVE VETERANS IN DORCHESTER.
WE HAVE A POST WE JUST CLOSED.
>> IF THEY'RE JUST A BAR
THEY'RE NOT A VFW POST.
WE RECOGNIZE THAT AND THAT'S
WHERE SOME PROBLEMS LIE.
MY HOPE IS PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE
VFW IS HERE.
GIVE US A CALL.
I HAVE A HAND OUT I HAND TO THE
COUNCIL.
YOU CAN SEE THE GOOD WORKS WE'RE
DOING.
WE ARE DOING SCHOLARSHIP DRIVES
ACROSS THE STATE.
WE HAVE HANDED OUT TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN
SCHOLARSHIPS.
WE PROMOTE PATRIOTISM IN THE
SCHOOLS.
THE POSTS WHEN YOU SEE THE FLAGS
ON THE TELEPHONE POLES AND THE
SQUARES ARE CLEAN AND FLAGS AT
THE CEMETERY.
THOSE ARE MANY VFW MEMBERS DOING
THIS THROUGH THE POST.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS I'M HERE.
>> THANK YOU.
>> GOOD AFTERNOON MY NAME IS
DAVID HANKA.
I'M THE VETERANS OUTREACH
COORDINATOR FOR VA BOSTON
HEALTHCARE.
IN THAT ROLL I REPRESENT ONE OF
THE LARGEST IF NOT THE LARGEST
FEDERAL EMPLOYER IN THE REGION.
PARTICULARLY HERE IN THE CITY.
AS PART OF THE VA HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM, IN A SENSE I REPRESENT
ALL OF OUR FAMILY OF VETERAN
AFFAIRS SERVICES IN THE AREA.
SO, AS YOU KNOW THE VA IS A QUAD
COMPONENT ORGANIZATION.
IF YOU CONSIDER THE HEALTHCARE
ORGANIZATION.
THE BIGGEST DOG ON THE BLOCK.
WE HAVE THREE BIG HEALTHCARE
HOSPITALS IN THE BOSTON AREA.
FIVE CLINICS, ETCETERA, WE ARE
WORKING IN CONJUNCTION.
BEING THE LARGEST EMPLOYER OF
THE HEALTH CARE ASPECT PROVIDING
THE WIGGEST FOOT PRINT.
WE WORK WITH OUR COUSINS THERE
AND THE VETERANS BENEFITS
ADMINISTRATION ACROSS CITY HALL
PLASMA HERE AT THE JFK BUILDING.
THEY'RE GIVING OUT MONEY, FUNDS
TO VETERANS.
PAYMENTS IN TERMS OF
COMPENSATION AND VA HOME LOANS,
GI BILLS.
THOSE GREAT PROGRAMS FOR
VETERANS.
WE THINK OF VETERANS BENEFITS
AND WHAT THEY RECEIVE
MONETARILY.
THAT'S OUT OF THE VBA.
THE HEALTHCARE SIDE WE REPRESENT
A POWERFUL AND FEDERAL ORGANIZED
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM THAT IS
ABSOLUTELY TREMENDOUS.
ALSO WE ALSO WORK IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE CEMETERY FUNCTIONS.
WE WORK WITH OUR BOSTON VA VET
CENTER.
SO, THOSE MAKE UP THE FEDERAL
FOOT PRINT FOR VA SERVICES.
OBVIOUSLY WE BRING A LOT TO THE

TABLE.

IT'S A GREAT, WHAT A CALL A GOOD NEWS STORY.

WE SERVE ABOUT 62,000 VETERANS ALONE HERE IN THE BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM EACH YEAR ALONE.

THAT'S A LOT OF FOLKS COMING IN. THAT'S A GOOD NEWS STORY IN THE SENSE WE OFFER THEM WHAT WE CALL THE BEST CARE ANYWHERE.

A WONDERFUL BOOK BY THAT TITLE. TALKING ABOUT THE VA BEING A MODEL FOR HEALTHCARE IN AMERICA. THE VA IS DOING IT RIGHT IN TERMS OF MEDICAL CARE.

WE BRING VETS IN, PERSONAL STORY IN A SENSE IS THAT AS A VETERAN I CAN GO TO, I CAN GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SAME DOCTOR I HAVE AT MASS GENERAL HOSPITAL, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO SPENDS TIME LIKE A LOT OF PHYSICIANS DULY APPOINTED AT VA FACILITIES.

I CAN GET THE SAME DOCTOR, SAME PROCEDURE, I'M NOT PAYING ANY, NEW PREMIUMS AT THE VA.

I'M NOT PAYING EXTRA FEES OR SERVICE CHARGES, ETCETERA, I GET EXCEPTIONALLY QUALITY CARE.

I GET IT FASTER AT THE VA TEN THEN THE COMMERCIAL HEALTHCARE AGENCIES THIS.

IS A STORY THE PRESS DOES A WONDERFUL JOB OF HOLDING FOLKS ACCOUNTABLE.

THE VA HAS DEVELOPED AND RESPONDED TO SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES HERE.

BY AND LARGE THE VA HAS BEEN TREMENDOUS, A TREMENDOUS ORGANIZATION LEADING THE WAY OF HEALTHCARE IN THIS COUNTRY. THAT'S A PITCH FOR VA HEALTHCARE IN A SENSE.

I WILL SAY, ACCORDING TO RECENTLY RAN STORIES THAT VETERANS RATE THE VA SYSTEM AND THE CARE OF THE VA AS JUST AS GOOD OR FAR BETTER THAN THE COMMERCIAL CARE FACILITIES. PERSONALLY ON THE SURVEYS WE TAKE WITH VETERANS 85% TO 90% OF VETERANS, I SPEAK TO 1200 TO

1500 VETS A YEAR USING VA CARE.
THEY TELL YOU THEY ARE VERY
SATISFIED WITH VA CARE OR
ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT WE HAVE A
TREMENDOUS CARE.

THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF THE
COUNTRY.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT THINGS AND
SOME CHALLENGES, AS THE LARGEST
FEDERAL AGENCY OUTSIDE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE T DOES
HAVE IT'S CHALLENGES.

BY AND LARGE IT'S A TREMENDOUS
CARE SYSTEM.

PART OF THE GOOD NEWS STORY IS
THAT AS WE WORK AT EFFORTS ON
OUTREACH AND CONNECTING TO
VETERANS AND GETTING THEM INTO
CARE WE HAVE A GREAT MILITARY
VETERAN TEAM.

TO GET IN A SETTING LIKE THIS,
AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, WE'RE PART
OF A NETWORK.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE BEING YOUR
PLATOON, SQUAD OR SECTION.
WE KNOW WE EACH HAVE DIFFERENT
JOBS WE ADD INTO THIS EFFORT.
SO, THE VA WOULD CALL IT
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.
COMMUNITY NETWORKING.

I CALL IT ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT
APPROACH.

WE, WE GET IT DONE IN A SENSE
THAT WE HAVE BEEN NETWORKED FOR
YEARS.

THANKFULLY WITH THE WORK THAT
BRIGHT. IS
BEING DONE IT'S CLARIFYING THE
CONNECTIONS.

IT'S GREAT THEY HAVE STEPPED UP
TO DO THAT.

IN THESE EFFORTS THERE ARE A
NUMBER OF WAYS WE REACH OUT TO
VETERANS.

WE MAIL TO ALL RETURNING
VETERANS.

WE WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE TO GET THE ADDRESSES.
ANY VETERAN RETURNING FROM
ACTIVE DUTY, WE WILL SEND A
LETTER OUT TO THEM SAYING,
WELCOME BACK.

YOU MAY OF HEARD ABOUT THIS WHEN
YOU LEFT THE SERVICE.

NOW YOU'RE COME BACK TO THE
HOMETOWN HERE.
IS THE VA AND HOMETOWN SERVICES.
WE HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS HERE,
THE STATE DEPARTMENT SERVICES,
CITY OF BOSTON VET SERVICES AND
ALL OF THAT THING.
WE MARKET EVERYONE WITH
COMPREHENSIVE CARE.
MAILINGS AND A NUMBER OF THINGS.
THE JOB FAIRS AND VETERAN EXPOS.
THE DIRECTOR OF VA BOSTON IS A
BIG PROPONENT OF NETWORKING.
ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT APPROACH
WELL.
BRING THIS TO THE TABLE AND
NOBODY CAN GET THE JOB DONE
SEPARATELY THAT WE CAN DO
TOGETHER.
IN THAT REGARDS I WILL JUST, I
WILL LEAVE MY COMMENTS THERE.
I DID WANT TO MENTION SOME OF
OUR CHALLENGES ARE GETTING
VETERANS KNOT CARE SYSTEM, A
GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO MAY OR MAY
NOT BE THRILLED ABOUT UTILIZING
HEALTHCARE, ETCETERA, BEING
AWARE THEY NEED PREVENTIVE
MAINTENANCE N MILITARY TERMS.
THAT'S HOW I UNDERSTAND
HEALTHCARE.
>> IF I LOOK AT THE GOVERNMENT
TEACHING ME TO TAKE CARE OF
EQUIPMENT AND PEOPLE YOU HAVE TO
BE PREVENTIVE OR YOU STAND TO
GAIN MUCH BY DOING THAT.
WE PUSH AND WORK TO GET VETERANS
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS.
WE'RE IN A HOSPITAL RICH
ENVIRONMENT.
ANYWHERE IN MASSACHUSETS AND THE
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
GETTING VETERANS TO KNOW THEY
CAN SAVE SO MUCH.
THEY DON'T HAVE TO PAY OUT
PREMIUMS.
THE OTHER PARTICULAR CHALLENGE,
ESPECIALLY IN BOSTON, THE INCOME
GAP AND INCOME THRESHOLD THAT
CONGRESS IMPOSES ON THE VA AND
GETTING VETERANS TO QUALIFY.
YOU CAN ONLY MAKE 50,000 OR SO
AS A VETERAN IN THE AREA -- IF
YOU ARE OVER THAT AMOUNT YOU

LIKELY CAN'T UTILIZE VA CARE.
THAT'S AN ONGOING CHALLENGE.
I WANT TO MENTION GREAT PROGRAMS
THAT WORK WITH THE CITY FROM THE
VA.

ONE IS THE VETERANS PROGRAM AND
THE HEALTHCARE FOR HOMELESS
VETERANS.

I WILL TURN THAT OVER TO CARRY
ON.

>> THANK YOU.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING US HERE.
MY NAME IS CAROLYN MASON WALLY.
I'M THE WOMAN'S VETERANS PROGRAM
MANAGER.

AS MENTIONED EARLIER BY -- THE
VETERAN POPULATION OF WOMEN
ABOUT 26,000 WOMEN VETERANS IN
MASSACHUSETTS.

AROUND 9% OF ALL VETERANS ARE
FEMALES.

AROUND 14 % OF ACTIVE DUTY ARE
FEMALE.

AROUND 18, 18% OF RESERVED AND
NATIONAL GUARD.

SO THERE IS A LARGE POPULATION
OF WOMEN VETERANS EVENTUALLY,
YOU KNOW, IT WILL GET LARGER
BECAUSE OF THE HIGHER NUMBERS
AND HIGHER PERCENTAGES IN THE
SERVICES AT THIS TIME.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS GROWTH, VA
IS REALLY MAKING AN EFFORT TO
RAMP UP THE SERVICES FOR WOMEN
VETERANS.

IMPROVE THE CARE WE PROVIDE.
MAKING SURE ANYONE WORKING AT
THE VA RECOGNIZES THEM AS
VETERANS.

IS ABLE TO PROVIDE THE CARE THAT
THEY NEED.

WE REALLY CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

HENCE BEING HERE.

BEING PART OF THIS, THIS
COMMUNITY.

IN RESPONSE VA BOSTON HAS
DEVELOPED A FULL SPECTRUM OF
CARE FOR WOMEN.

IT'S MY SKWRAOB TO OVERSEE THE
UMBRELLA OF ALL SERVICES TO
WOMEN WHEN THEY WALK IN THE
FRONT DOOR.

LOOKING AT OUTREACH TO THEM,

OUTREACH TO CARE, MAKING SURE
IT'S A WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND
PROVIDED PROBLEMATIC CARE.
PART OF OUR SERVICES ARE
PRIMARY CARE, GYNECOLOGY, MENTAL
HEALTH, IN PATIENT RESIDENTIAL,
OUTPATIENT CARE, WOMENS IMAGING
CLINICS, MATERNITY CARE
COORDINATION, SO ON AND SO
FORTH.
WE HAVE DEVELOPED SPECIALIZED
PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN HERE AT VA
BOSTON.
WE ARE A NATIONAL REFERRAL SITE
FOR OUR A CUTE PSYCHIATRY.
WE HAVE SPECIFIC CARE FOR WOMEN
IN BROCKTON.
TRUST HOUSE, A TRANSITIONAL
RESIDENCE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IN
JAMAICA PLANES.
OUR WOMENS TRAUMA RECOVERY TEAM
WHICH IS AN OUTPATIENT WOMENS
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM IN JAMAICA
PLANES.
WE ALSO ARE HOME TO ONE OF THE
SITES OF THE WOMEN HEALTH
SCIENCES FOR PTSD.
A HUGE AMOUNT OF THE RESEARCH
GOING ON, HAVING TO DO WITH
WOMEN VETERANS STEMS FROM THAT
PROGRAM THERE.
OUR SERVICES ARE AMONG THE MOST
EXPANSIVE IN THE VA FOR WOMEN.
OUR OUT COMES FROM THE CARE
REALLY RIVAL ANY PRIVATE NON VA
CARE PROVIDERS HERE IN
MASSACHUSETTS.
FOR EXAMPLE WE ENCOURAGE WOMEN
VETERANS WHO HAVE MENTAL HEALTH
PROBLEMS TO USE THE VA.
WE LOOKED AT RESEARCH PROGRAMS
RECENTLY THAT SHOWED WOMEN
WITH -- THE SUICIDE RATE POOR
WOMEN GAUGED IN THE VA THE LAST
TEN YEARS DROPPED ABOUT TWO AND
A HALF PERCENT.
THOSE WHO DON'T USE VA INCREASED INCREASED
ABOUT 80%.
IT'S A PROTECTIVE FACTOR FOR
THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN CARE,
PARTICULARLY MENTAL HEALTHCARE
IN THE VA.
AS COMMISSIONER STERLING
MENTIONED WE'RE ONE OF THE

STRONGEST NETWORKS IN THE
COUNTRY.
WE FOCUS ON CONNECTION,
COMMUNITY, ACCESS TO CARE,
SERVICES.
THAT PROGRAM REALLY HELPS TO
REACH OUT TO WOMEN VETERANS.
AS WE GO FORWARD I THINK SOME OF
THE IMPORTANT THINGS WE COULD
ASK ASSISTANCE WITH IS
RECOGNIZING WOMEN VETERANS AS
VETERANS.
CONTINUE HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN
LEADERS SUCH AS THE
COMMISSIONER.
REACHING OUT TO WOMEN WHO DON'T
OFTEN IDENTIFY AS VETERANS.
DON'T TURN OUT FOR MEETINGS LIKE
THIS.
THEY'RE STRUGGLING TO RETURN TO
CIVILIAN LIFE BEING BOTH MOM,
MOM, WIFE, CAREGIVER FOR AN
ELDERLY PARENT AND EMPLOYEE OR
STUDENT.
REALLY MIXED ROLLS.
WE REALLY CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON
HOUSING FOR LOW AND MORE MIDDLE
INCOME CLASSES FOR WOMEN
VETERANS.
PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH CHILDREN
OR THOSE ESCAPING DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE.
OUR ELDER VETS AND STUDENT VETS
VERY CHALLENGING POPULATIONS.
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME HERE.
>> THANK YOU.
>> GOOD AFTERNOON MY NAME IS
CHRIS STOLARD.
I OVERSEE PROGRAMS OF VETERANS
AND HOMELESSNESS.
I FOAL FORTUNATE TO WORK WITH A
ORGANIZATION LOOKING AT
HEALTHCARE THROUGH THE
COMMUNITY.
UNDERSTANDING THE ENVIRONMENT OF
THE VETERAN.
INSURING THEIR SAFETY,
EMPLOYMENT AND IN SHOWERING
HOUSING.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH DAVID,
COLONEL HANKIE SHARED.
I REALLY APPRECIATE THE TEAM WE
HAVE IN THIS ROOM TODAY.
WE WORKED HARD THE HOMELESS FOR

THE BRAVE INITIATIVE.
WORKING WITH COMMISSIONER
STERLING.
WORKING WITH SHEILA AT DND.
FINDING HOUSING FOR OVER A
THOUSAND VETERANS OVER THE LAST
FEW YEARS.
IT'S A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT.
WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
OVERSEE THE HUD VAST PROGRAM.
WE POINTED THIS OUT EARLIER,
EXCELLENT MODELS OF HUD VAST
HOUSING IN THE ROOM.
WE HAVE WORKED TO ESTABLISH 35
UNITS OF PROJECT BASED UNIT.
WE ARE WORKING WITH BRIGHTON
MARINE TO ESTABLISH AT THAT
ADDITIONAL HOUSING UNITS ABOVE
AND BEYOND THE 102 UNITS OF EX
MIXED HOUSING THEY'RE CREATING.
I WANT TO POINT OUT OUR PARTNERS
AND THE NEED OF MORE AFFORDABLE
HOUSING THAT IS NEEDING.
WITHOUT THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING
AND LANDLORDS WILLING TO HOUSE
VETERANS, WE'RE UNABLE TO USE
VOUCHERS.
A FEW OTHER SPECIALIZED SERVICE
WEZ HAVE THROUGH THE VA.
WE ALSO PARTICIPATE WITH ELEANOR
SENATE FOR THE VETERANS COURT.
WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THERE ARE A
NUMBER OF BARRIERS WE CAN ASSIST
VETERANS OVERCOME AS THEY
MAINTAIN HOUSING OR COME OUST
HOMELESSNESS.
WHETHER IT'S WORKING WITH DOR,
DEPARTMENT OF REV NOW.
WHETHER THAT'S WORKING WITH A
LEGAL TEAM OR GAIN EMPLOYMENT.
WE SEE THESE BARRIERS AS
OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO HELP THE
VETERAN GET ON THE PATH THEY
WOULD LIKE TO SEE.
THAT INCLUDES PERMANENT HOUSING,
OF COURSE.
TIMELY I WANT TO POINT OUT WE IS
HAVE A NUMBER OF CONTRACTUAL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEMBERS IN
THE ROOM.
SUPPORT VETERANS AND FAMILIES.
MONEY GOING TO VETERANS AND
FAMILIES WHETHER THAT'S TO
PREVENT HOMELESSNESS, BACK RENT,

FIRST MONTH RENT.
WE ALSO DO HAVE A NUMBER OF
EMERGE EPT HOUSING CONTRACTS.
VETERAN QUALIFYING FOR VETERAN
SERVES IN THE BOSTON AREA
WOULDN'T BE AFFORDED HOUSING
IMMEDIATELY.
I APPRECIATE YOUR TIME TODAY.
>> THANK YOU, CHRIS.
WE ALSO HAVE REBECCA HERE.
>> MY MAIM IS RAFFLE JOHN
McDONALD.
MY PREFERRED NAME IS REBECCA
JEAN.
I'M -- HERE IN BOSTON.
I REPRESENT -- BOSTON.
WE'RE AN ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS
CLOSELY WITH THE VA.
WE RUN VARIOUS SUPPORT GROUPS.
I KNOW, YOU SHOULD HAVE A
PACKET, I HOPE.
>> I DO.
>> WITHIN THE PACKET YOU WILL
FIND TWO BROCHURES.
ONE OF THEM IS FOR ALL OF THE
GROUPS WE HAVE.
THE OTHER ONE IS A SPECIALTY FOR
THE -- LGBT.
I RUN THAT PROGRAM ALONG WITH MY
ROOMMATE.
MY CO FACILITATOR.
WE'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE
EVERYONE AWARE WE ARE HERE.
WE ARE HERE TO HELP.
ONE OF OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS IS IS
GETTING THE INFORMATION OUT.
THE OTHER PROBLEM IS WE DON'T
HAVE THE ABILITY TO RUN SUPPORT
GROUPS IN COMMUNITY.
ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT.
WE FOUND THAT WE HAVE -- IF YOU
GET AWAY FROM THE VA BECAUSE
THEY'RE AFRAID THAT THEY WILL
TAKE NOTES.
GUESS WHAT IT'S NOT.
THEY'RE NOT ALLOWED IN THE ROOM.
THEY GIVE US ROOM, THEY SPONSOR
US, THEY HELP US.
STAYS THERE POINT BLANK.
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ANYONE TO
WRITE ANYTHING DOWN.
UNLESS YOU WANT TO GIVE ME AN
E-MAIL ADDRESS.
WOMENS VETERANS GROUP WE HAVE IS

RIGHT NOW ACTIVE IN BROCKTON ON
THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS
FROM 11:00 TO 12:00.
THAT GROUP IS GOING FAIRLY WELL.
WE HAVE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OF
7-12 WHICH IS GREAT.
THAT'S ONE OF THE BETTER ONES.
PTSD, THERE IS A WHOLE LIST OF
THEM IF YOU READ THE BROCHURE.
WE MOSTLY HAVE A WOMANS GROUP IN
JP.
RIGHT NOW WE'RE HAVING A VERY
HARD TIME RECRUITING INVOLVE
UNERS TO TO FACILITATE THE
MEETINGS.
IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY GETTING
SOMEONE TO SIT UP AND ACTUALLY
REALIZE WHEN YOU'RE IN THERE,
THERE IS NO VA EMPLOYEES IN THE
ROOM.
WHAT IS SAID THERE STAY THERE'S.
I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE ELSE
SAYS.
YOU DON'T COME IN MY ROOM AS AN
EMPLOYEE, PERIOD.
WE GET THEM TO OPEN UP.
WE GET THEM TO TALK MORE.
THAT MAY MAKE ONE OF OUR
MISSIONS A LOT EASIER.
WE HAVE THEM STARTING TO TALK.
TO ME THAT'S VERY, VERY
IMPORTANT.
I RUN THE TRANSGENDER GROUP.
WE MEET BETWEEN BROCKTON AND
JAMAICA PLANES.
JAMAICA PLANES IS THE FIRST AND
THIRD.
BROCKTON IS THE SECOND AND
FOURTH THURSDAYS.
SO, WE DO A PRETTY GOOD JOB
THERE.
WE TRY TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT.
THE VA IS NOT MILITARY.
I HAVE TALKED TO QUITE A FEW
TRANS DEFENDER PEOPLE IN THE
AREA.
THEY'RE AFRAID THAT IF THEY COME
TO THE VA, COME OUT OF THE
CLOSET THEY WILL BE STIGMATIZED
AND CHASTISED.
WHICH IS NOT TRUE.
THE VA HAS A WONDERFUL TREATMENT
PROGRAM FOR THE TRANS GENDERS.
NOT JUST TRANS GENDERS BUT LGBT

PERIOD.
MY CARE HAS BEEN EXCELLENT.
I HAVE HAD LITTLE OR NO PROBLEMS
AT ALL SINCE 1980 WE HAVE A NEW
GROUP WE STARTED AFTER HOURS.
IN WEST ROXBURY.
THAT MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD
MONDAYS.
7:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
OUR DIRECTORS HAVE GIVEN US A
ROOM RIGHT IN BUILDING 3.
SO WE'RE GOING TO BE THERE AFTER
HOURS.
THAT'S THE FIRST AFTER HOURS
GROUP PERIOD.
WE ARE HERE, WE'RE TRYING TO
HELP.
WE JUST WANT TO BE -- - LET
EVERYONE KNOW WE CAN HELP.
WE HAVE BEEN THERE.
WE HAVE DONE.
THAT EACH MODEL -- I KEEP
GETTING THAT SCREWED UP.
EACH ONE FOR EACH ONE TEACH ONE.
SO EVERYONE WE CAN REACH WE CAN
ACTUALLY TEACH.
UNFORTUNATELY -- THE STAFF HERE
I SHOULDN'T SAY STAFF OUR PEOPLE
FROM THE BOARD.
THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT FOR
VARIOUS REASONS.
HERE ARE TWO BUSINESS CARDS IN
THE PACKET.
ONE IS TO SUPPORT VET LGBT
GROUP.
THERE IS INFORMATION ON CONTACTS
ON THE BACK.
WE HAVE A WEBSITE IN THE WORKS.
VETTOVETLGBT.
THE SECOND CARD IS FOR ONE OF
OUR CHAIR MEN AT THE BOARD.
IF ANYBODY NEEDS TO CONTACT FOR
MORE INFORMATION, THEN I CAN
GIVE, HIS CONTACT INFORMATION IS
ON THAT CARD.
WE ARE A NON PROFIT.
WE ARE A 501C3.
FUND RAISING MAY NOT BE OUR
STRONG SUIT.
WE'RE NOT REALLY ORGANIZED,
INCORPORATE MAYBE FIVE OR SIX
YEARS.
IT TAKES TIME.
ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THE CITY

HAS THAT I PARTICIPATED IN WAS
THE TOWN HALL.
THE LG --
I HAVE TO GIVE THE COMMISSIONER
MY THANKS.
I HAVE NEVER SEEN A CITY, A TOWN
DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I AM A VIETNAM VETERAN.
I NEVER SERVED IN COMBAT.
I WAS IN THE TAIL END.
IT DIDN'T MATTER.
YOU WERE MILITARY YOU WERE
CHASTISED BY ALL CIVILIANS BUT
WE MAKE IT THROUGH.
MORE PEOPLE BEING REACHED, THE
MORE PEOPLE BEING HELPED, IN
TERM HELPING THE VA TREAT THAT
PERSON EVEN MORE, EVEN BETTER.
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE
TO SAY.
>> THANK YOU.
THANK YOU, REBECCA.
I AGREE WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO
ATTEND THE SAME TOWN HALL.
I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO
COMMISSIONER STERLING AND
COMMISSIONER WALSH HELPING
SPONSOR IT AND ORGANIZE IT AS
WELL.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS.
WITH THAT I WANT TO ASK IF THERE
IS ANYONE ELSE THAT WOULD LIKE
TO OFFER ANY COMMENTS WE HAVE A
MICROPHONE ON THE LEFT.
A MICROPHONE ON THE RIGHT.
THIS IS PUBLIC COMMENTS IF
ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN COMING
DOWN TO WEIGHT IN.
AGAIN I WANT TO SAY -- OKAY.
>> I KNOW EVERYBODY HERE --
[INAUDIBLE]
I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE TEAM.
THAT IS A REALLY IMPORTANT
PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERAN SERVE SERVICES STARTED
YEARS AGO.
I SENT AT LEAST A HALF DOZEN
VETERANS THROUGH.
THOSE GUYS DO IMPORTANT WORK.
THE WORK LOAD IS ENORMOUS.
THEY DROP WHATEVER THEY'RE
DOING.
THEY GO AND ADDRESS THE ISSUES,
CRITICALLY AT RISK VETERANS.

I SENT THEM SOMEONE I MET IN THE
STREETS, HOMELESS AND DRUGGY
TKEUBGTED.

THEY BRING THEM IN FOR TREATMENT
THROUGH THE VA HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM, A PARTNER PROGRAM.

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE WORK
LOAD IS HUGE.

THEY DON'T GET RECOGNIZED A LOT.
IT'S A WONDERFUL PROGRAM.

IF THE CITY WANTS TO START
SOMETHING SIMILAR THAT'S THE
STANDARD TO GOV G. OFF OF.

I WANT TO SAY THANKS.

>> THAT'S GOOD INFORMATION.

THANK YOU, JESSE.

I WANT TO CONCLUDE BY THANKING
EVERYONE FOR BEING HERE.

I KNOW IT WAS A LONG HEARING.

I THINK THE INFORMATION YOU
PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC WAS
EXCEPTIONAL.

THIS INFORMATION WILL TRAVEL ON
CABLE TELEVISION AND PEOPLE MAY
PICK IT UP AND GIVE YOU A CALL.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING
HERE AND ADVOCATING FOR VETERANS
AND MILITARY FAMILIES.

I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO MY
COLLEAGUES.

TO THOSE WHO GAVE ME A CALL, I
WANT TO THANK ESPECIALLY THE
VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS FOR
PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES
TO RETURNING VETERANS.

FOR THE HOMELESS VETERANS THAT
ARE IN THE CITY.

WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS CHAMPION IN
MAYOR WALSH, GOVERNOR BAKER.

I THINK OUR CITY AND STATE LEAD
THE WAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

TREATING OUR HOMELESS VETERANS
WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY THAT
THEY HAVE EARNED.

OUR VA IS DOING EXCEPTIONAL
WORK.

AS COUNSELOR O'MALLEY MENTIONS
TWO ARE IN HIS DISTRICTS.

ONE IN MY DISTRICT ON CAUSEWAY
STREET.

I USE THE FACILITY IN WEST
ROXBURY AND JAMAICA PLANES.

FOR ME THE VA HEALTH SYSTEM IS
EXCELLENT.

I HAVE BEEN ENROLLED IN THE VA
HEALTH SYSTEM FOR ABOUT SIX
YEARS.

I'M SO HAPPY WITH IT.

SO, I SEE THE DEDICATED NURSES,
DOCTORS AND STAFF EVERY DAY.
VOLUNTEERS AS WELL.

THE VOLUNTEERS ARE SO HAPPY TO
BE THERE.

IT MAKES IT ACTUALLY FUN GOING
TO THE HOSPITAL AT TIMES.

I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE
NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR HOMELESS
VETERANS FOR THE OUTSTANDING
WORK FOR MANY YEARS IN THE CITY.
THE HOME BASE PROGRAM FOR WHAT
YOU ARE DOING AND PROVIDING
QUALITY COMPASSIONATE MENTAL
HEALTHCARE.

NOT JUST FOR THE VETERAN BUT
MILITARY FAMILIES AS WELL.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR BEING
HERE.

I HAVE A OPEN DOOR POLICY.

IF I CAN BE AN ASSISTANCE LET ME
KNOW REGARDLESS OF THE ISSUE OR
IF THE PERSON IS IN MY DISTRICT
OR NOT.

I'M HERE TO HELP.

I'M PROUD TO HAVE SERVED 2 YEARS
IN THE NAVY.

I'M HONORED TO BE HERE WITH YOU
GUYS HERE TODAY.

I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU.

THIS MEETING WILL BE -- WILL BE
CLOSED.

THANK YOU.