

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs**



**Responses to Fiscal Year 2018-2019  
Performance Oversight Questions**

**Elliot Tommingo  
Interim Director**

**Submission to**

**Committee on Government Operations  
Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Brandon T. Todd, Chairperson**

February 8, 2019

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW,  
Washington, DC 20004

**Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs  
FY18-19 Performance Oversight Questions  
Committee on Government Operations  
Councilmember Brandon T. Todd (Ward 4), Chair**

1. Please provide the legislative history for the creation of the Office, which includes the following information:
  - a. The legislative vehicle by which the Office was created (Mayor's Order, Resolution, or Statute).

**The Office of Veterans Affairs Establishment Act of 2001, Oct. 3, 2001, D.C. Law 14-28, § 703, 48 DCR 6981. This Act is codified in the Code of the District of Columbia at § 49-1002.**

- b. What powers the Office has been delegated through Mayor's Order?

**The Office of Veterans Affairs does not have delegated powers through a Mayor's Order.**

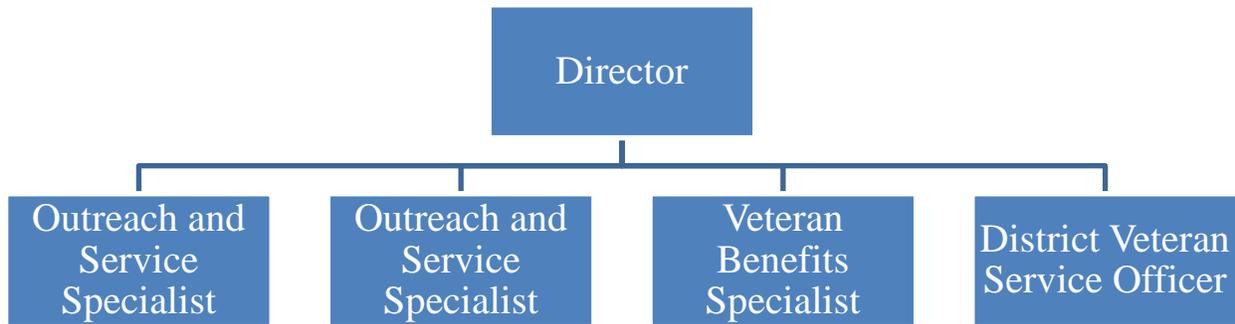
- c. The legislative vehicle by which the Director was appointed (Mayor's Order, Resolution, Statute).

**PR21-911, the "Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs Ely S. Ross Confirmation Resolution of 2016", which was approved on December 6, 2016. Elliot Tommingo was appointed as Interim Director in January 2019.**

2. Please explain the mission of your Office.

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) is dedicated to serving the District's veteran community, their families, survivors, and military caregivers. MOVA seeks to connect veterans with available resources to address the broad range of social, economic, and healthcare needs of the District's veteran community by building strategic partnerships with public and private organizations, creating veteran-centered policy initiatives, and developing strong relationships with the veteran community. Building on these relationships, MOVA acts as a liaison between the District's veteran community and the Mayor, District agencies, federal agencies, and non-profit organizations to ensure that the District's veteran community has access to the full range of resources available to them.**

3. Please provide a complete, up-to-date organizational chart for each division within the office, including an explanation of the roles and responsibilities for each division and subdivision.



- a. Please provide a list of all employees (name and title) for each subdivision and the number of vacant positions.

1. **Elliot Tommingo, Interim Director**
2. **Vacant, Outreach and Service Specialist**
3. **Sharod Wade, Outreach and Service Specialist**
4. **Carole McDowney, Veteran Benefits Specialist**
5. **Robert Pearson, District Veteran Service Officer**

- b. Please provide a narrative explanation of any organizational changes made during the previous year.

**In FY19, MOVA received an additional FTE to serve as a District Veteran Service Officer.**

4. Please provide a complete position listing for your office for fiscal year 2018 to date, including the following information.
  - a. Name of employee.
  - b. Title of position.
  - c. Grade, series, and step of position.
  - d. Date employee began.
  - e. Salary and fringe benefits.
  - f. Job status (continuing, term, temporary or contract).

Name of Employee	Title of Position	Grade, Series, and Step of Position	Date Employee Began	Salary and Fringe Benefits	Job Status
Elliot Tommingo	Interim Director	Grade 7	1/20/2019	\$100,312.12	Excepted
Elliot Tommingo	Outreach and Service Specialist	Grade 5	5/08/2017-1/19/2019 <b>Vacant as of 1/20/19</b>	\$76,120.00	Excepted
Sharod Wade	Outreach and Service Specialist	Grade 5	2/20/2018	\$67,406.21	Excepted

Carole McDowney	Benefits Specialist	Grade 12 Step 5	01/02/2015	\$83,078.00	Career
Robert Pearson	Claims Specialist-District Veteran Service Officer	Grade 5	10/22/2018	\$67,406.21	Excepted

5. Does the office conduct annual performance evaluations of all its employees? If so, who conducts such evaluations? What steps are taken to ensure that all office employees are meeting individual job requirements?

**Yes. MOVA conducts annual performance evaluations of all employees. The Director is responsible for conducting these evaluations. In addition to the annual and mid-year performance reviews, the Director conducts monthly check-in reviews to ensure that all employees are meeting individual job requirements.**

6. Please provide a list of employees detailed to, or from your office. Provide the reason for the detail, the detailed employee's date of detail, and the detailed employee's projected date of return.

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs does not currently have any employees detailed to or from the Office.**

7. Please provide the Committee with:
- a. A list of all employees who receive cellphones, personal digital assistants, or similar communications devices at the Office's expense.
  - b. A list of all vehicles owned, leased, or otherwise used by the Office and to whom the vehicle is assigned.
  - c. A list of employee bonuses or special award pay granted in FY18 and FY19, to date.
  - d. A list of travel expenses itemized by employee.
  - e. A list of the total overtime and workman's compensation payments paid in FY18 and FY19 to date.

**All employees listed in question four have been provided with cell phones at the Office's expense. All other questions do not apply to the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs.**

8. Please provide a chart showing your office's approved budget and actual spending, by division, for FY18 and FY19 to date. In addition, please describe any variance between fiscal year appropriations and actual expenditures.

Agency Name: Office of Veteran Affairs							
Appropriated Fund	FY 2018 Approved Budget	FY 2018 Revised Budget	FY 2018 YTD Expenditures	Variance	FY 2019 Approved Budget	FY 2019 Revised Budget	FY 2019 YTD Expenditures
Local Funds	\$ 467,213	\$ 476,668	\$ 465,031	\$ 11,637	\$ 617,442	\$ 617,442	\$ 215,817
Intra-District Funds		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -			
Special Revenue Funds	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,987	\$ 13	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 789
Private Donations							
Federal Funds							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 472,213</b>	<b>\$ 541,668</b>	<b>\$ 530,018</b>	<b>\$ 11,650</b>	<b>\$ 622,442</b>	<b>\$ 622,442</b>	<b>\$ 216,605</b>
<b>Comments on Staffing:</b>							
<b>Comments on Other Significant Matters:</b>							
The agency first added special purpose revenue for FY 2013. The revenue is from the veterans license plate sales and will be used to support recognition and outreach programs. The actual revenue is about \$ 5,000 per year.							

9. Please list any reprogramming, in or out, which occurred in FY18 or FY19 to date. For each reprogramming, please list the total amount of the reprogramming, the original purposes for which the funds were dedicated, and the reprogrammed use of funds.

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs did not reprogram any FY18 or FY19 funds.**

Please provide a complete accounting for all intra-District transfers received by or transferred from the office during FY18 or FY19 to date.

Office of Veterans Affairs (VA0)				
Fiscal YEAR 2018				
Total	Amount	FTEs	Sending Agency	Service
	\$0			
	Amount		Receiving Agency	Service
	\$ 938.30		DPW	Fleet Management
	\$ 7,000.00		AA0	Support Services
	\$ 60,000.00		TC0	Veterans Transportation Services
				Account Code Where This is Funded in Agency FY 2018 Budget
				0404
				0410
				0408
Fiscal YEAR 2019				
Total	Amount	FTEs	Sending Agency	Service
	\$0			
	Amount		Receiving Agency	Service
	\$ 120,000.00		TC0	Veterans Transportation Services
	\$ 7,000.00		AA0	Support Services
	\$ 801.00		DPW	Fleet Management
				Account Code Where This is Funded in Agency FY 2019 Budget
				0408
				0410 Pending
				0408 Pending

10. Please identify any special purpose revenue accounts maintained by, used by, or available for use by your office during FY18 or FY19 to date. For each account, please list the following:

- a. The revenue source name and code.
- b. The source of funding.
- c. A description of the program that generates the funds.
- d. The amount of funds generated by each source or program in FY18 and FY19 to date.
- e. Expenditures of funds, including the purpose of each expenditure, for FY18 and FY19 to date.

<b>Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA)</b>			
<b>Veterans License Plate Revenue</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Revenue Recognized</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>2012</b>	2,652.00		<b>2,652.00</b>
<b>2013</b>	2,548.00		<b>2,548.00</b>
<b>2014</b>	3,172.00		<b>3,172.00</b>
<b>2015</b>	4,758.00		<b>4,758.00</b>
<b>2016</b>	6,110.00		<b>6,110.00</b>
<b>2017</b>	5,590.00	(9,896.45)	<b>(4,306.45)</b>
<b>2018</b>	7,176.00	(4,986.60)	<b>2,189.40</b>
<b>2019</b>			
	<b>32,006.00</b>	<b>(14,883.05)</b>	<b>17,122.95</b>
<b>FY 2018 REVENUE THRU 09/30/2018</b>			

11. Did the Office participate in any ethics trainings in FY 2018 and FY 2019 to date?

**Yes, the Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs participated in Ethics, Hatch Act, Cyber Security, and Sexual Harassment Prevention trainings.**

12. Please provide a list of types and dates of training/information sessions the Office has planned for FY19.

**MOVA has several reoccurring events and information sessions scheduled for FY19. The Office will continue to host monthly veteran round table events, monthly meetings of the Advisory Board, and quarterly special advocacy events.**

13. What are the top challenges the Office is presently facing?

**The Office works to identify the entire veteran population and establish a working relationship to connect the veteran, family member, survivor, or caregiver with benefits and services. The Office has been successful in providing a foundation and trust amongst its veteran population resulting in a large increase of DC veterans seeking claims, benefits, and other forms of assistance.**

14. What areas (e.g., financial training, procedural training, etc.) do you think the Office needs assistance with?

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs hired its first accredited veteran claims officer in October 2018. This accreditation will require regular training on existing or emerging veteran benefits and claims policies. MOVA's Director is in contact with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veteran Benefits Administration to coordinate available trainings and information sessions. In 2018, the Office participated in the No Wrong Door/DC Link working group to coordinate training information at other District agencies. The Office's goal is to ensure employees are screening for veterans utilizing services by asking the question: "Have you served in the military?" Training such as this will maximize opportunities to connect veterans seeking services at other District agencies with additional benefits and resources available to them because of their service to our nation. Finally, the Office will continue to seek training and coordination with the multiple organizations and councils addressing DC homelessness.**

15. Please provide a complete list of the Office's current programs, community events, and initiatives. Include a brief description and general time frame for each item.

**District Veteran Service Officer:**

**During FY2018, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs partnered with volunteer service officers who were specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. During FY18, MOVA's Claims Clinics provided an estimated \$5.7 million in total benefits for 410 DC veterans.**

**On October 22, 2018, MOVA hired its first District Veteran Service Officer (DVSO) responsible for assisting veterans, spouses, family members, survivors, and military caregivers in applying for benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs by initiating or reopening claims. The DVSO is accredited through the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), allowing access to the Department of Veterans Affairs claims database and the Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS). Since November 2018, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs' DVSO has advised 72 veterans on their benefits and filed claims for 36 veterans with a possible net compensation of \$1.2 million.**

**Vocational Rehabilitation Clinics:**

**In June 2017, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs partnered with the Department of Disability Services' Rehabilitative Services Administration to provide veterans with dedicated access to a vocational rehabilitation counselor. The Vocational Rehabilitation program provides vocational and rehabilitative services to individuals with disabilities to help them prepare for, secure, regain, or retain employment. The vocational rehabilitation**

counselor is available twice a month on Tuesdays. This partnership has provided screening and enrollment to 210 DC veterans.

**DD-214 Upgrade Clinics:**

Since 2017, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs has hosted nine DD-214 Upgrade Clinics with pro bono legal service providers, to assist veterans in applying for an upgrade to their DD-214 discharge status or for a military service record correction. Having a less than honorable discharge can prevent a veteran from accessing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services, including health care and other social services; as well as District level programs and benefits. MOVA is dedicated to ensuring that the service of our veterans is reflected in their military records so that they may be able to fully access the services and benefits they have earned. All branches of the military consider a veteran to have a strong case for a discharge upgrade if you can show your discharge was connected to any of these categories:

- Mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI);
- Sexual assault or harassment during military service; or
- Sexual orientation (including under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy).

MOVA works closely with our community legal partners to regularly hold these clinics. The Office will be holding additional clinics during the summer and fall of 2019.

**DD-214 Record Requests:**

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs completed an MOU with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) in January 2018 and has begun receiving electronic copies of DD-214 data. The Office now has access to the DoD's database, which allows the user to specifically query service member records. The result will allow the Office to provide District veteran residents discharged after 2015 with DD-214 documentation immediately, rather than referring them to the National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri. This will allow service members to obtain necessary documentation for employment, healthcare, social services, and other benefits in a timelier manner.

To accommodate this new electronic records delivery, MOVA is in the process of procuring a Fed Ramp compliant database to house the records. Once the database has been procured, the Office will begin uploading the more than 17,000 paper records to the database. This will allow the Office to provide DD-214 records to service members discharged before 2015 if they elected to have their records sent the Office of Veterans Affairs.

**Veteran Round Tables:**

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs hosts a veteran round table once a month in the DC City Center Conference Rooms at 441 4th St NW. This round table series is an informal two-hour meeting where veterans can raise concerns in the veteran community, discuss the Office's initiatives, and help shape future programs.

**LGBTQ Veteran Round Tables:**

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs both hosts and co-hosts a LGBTQ Round Table every quarter. This round table series is designed to increase engagement with the District's LGBTQ veterans. The LGBTQ veteran population is a historically underserved population and these round tables provide an opportunity to connect more veterans with the services and benefits they have earned. Statistically, LGBTQ veterans are less likely to identify as a veteran, are less likely to access services and benefits, and are more likely to suffer from systemic issues seen in the veteran community (e.g., homelessness and suicide) than veterans who identify as straight. Similarly, they are an opportunity for LGBTQ veterans to raise concerns, discuss the Office's initiatives, and help shape future programs. The next LGBTQ Veterans Roundtable is occurring February 26, 2019, at the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and will be co-hosted by The DC VAMC Veterans Mental Health Advisory Council.

#### **Women Veteran Round Tables:**

The Office's efforts to design a women's veteran license plate, completed in March 2018, was an opportunity to drive engagement with the District's women veteran population. Building on the success of that program, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs launched a Women Veterans Round Table series beginning in March 2018. Women veterans are a historically underserved population and these round tables will provide an opportunity to connect more women veterans with the services and benefits they have earned. Washington, DC has one of the highest concentrations of women veterans per capita in the country. Statistically, women veterans are less likely to identify as a veteran, are less likely to access services and benefits, and are more likely to suffer from systemic issues seen in the veteran community (e.g. homelessness and suicide) than their male veteran counterparts. This round table series is designed to drive more engagement with our women veterans and provide a platform to connect them with more services and benefits. Future roundtables are being scheduled for summer 2019.

#### **Mayor's Veteran Affairs Advisory Board Monthly Meetings:**

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs supports and assists the Mayor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Board in holding its monthly meetings. The Mayor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Board serves as an advisory body to the Mayor, the Mayor's Office of Boards and Commissions, the Office of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Employment Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and other District government departments, agencies, and offices on all matters pertaining to Veterans in the District of Columbia.

The Advisory Board meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. When that date falls on a holiday or another conflict is present, the Board will vote the month prior to move the meeting date. The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2019.

#### **Veterans Day of Service:**

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with local Veteran Service Organizations, and other District agencies, hosted the second annual Veterans Day of Service on November 10, 2018. 250 local veterans joined together in a community service project for the Richardson and Clay Terrace Dwellings in Ward 7. This is an annual event and more information will be available starting September 2019.

### **Veterans Day Television Special:**

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) and KMC Empowerment, produced a Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) Veterans Day Awareness Special that highlighted DC veterans, spouses, caregivers, and policy makers. This special focused on successful treatments, emerging treatments, alternatives to opioids, and recovery stories, complimented by DC veterans performing music and comedy. The 90-minute special aired on DCN on November 11 and 12, 2018 at 8:00pm. The Office intends on creating another special with OCTFME for Veterans Day 2019. You can view the Veterans Day 2018 special at our website [our website](#).

### **Veteran-Owned Small Business Stakeholder Meetings:**

The Mayor's Office of Veteran's Affairs partners with the DC Department of Small & Local Business Development to host a monthly Veterans' Business Stakeholders group aimed at building and strengthening support for our local veteran business community through government and community engagement. The first stakeholder meeting was held in December 2017. The stakeholder meetings are held once a month in different locations and formats. The meetings are always an open forum, and anyone interested in the topic is welcome and encouraged to come out. Future meetings are scheduled for February 12, February 26 (Military Saves Week), and March 5 at 202 Creates Studios.

### **VetsRide:**

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs began VetsRide, a pilot transportation project in November 2017 for low-income and homeless veterans. VetsRide provides free taxi rides to veterans who were residents of Washington, DC and made less than \$30,000 per year. Eligible veterans were able to take roundtrip rides to medical appointments, educational opportunities, and job interviews. From November 2017 to January 2018, and July 2018 to January 2019, VetsRide provided 5,900 free rides for 374 veterans. The program is currently suspended due to funding. The Office is currently working to secure additional funding for the program.

### **DC Veterans Capital Bikeshare:**

Starting March 2019, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs has partnered with District Dept of Transport (DDOT) and DDOT contractor Motivate International, to provide eligible DC veterans with a free Bikeshare account for one year. Motivate International will charge MOVA's registered account holders using MOVA's "portal" account five dollars for an annual membership for the first 600 veterans. DDOT will cover the additional cost for any veterans beyond the first 600. This program will be focused on student veterans throughout the District.

### **Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs Pathways to Work:**

In February 2019, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, working in partnership with the DMV and the Central Collection Unit (CCU), launched a program designed to help District veterans who cannot afford a driver's license because of debt from tickets, insurance lapse, booting, towing, or impounding. This program will allow eligible DC veterans the option to obtain a two-year driver license while not beginning payment on their debt for up to six months.

**D.C. Hires Vets:**

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs in partnership with DCHR and the DC National Guard hosted its second DC Hires Vets event, offering veterans and their spouses the opportunity to connect with District and federal agencies; as well as private sector companies. Select participating agencies conducted interviews with authority to make contingent job offers on-the-spot. 454 DC veterans and their spouses attended, 120 interviews were conducted by 80 vendors. This event is in its planning stages for a possible repeat in fall 2019.**

16. What has the Office done in the past year to make the activities of the Office more transparent to the public? In addition, please identify ways in which the activities of the Office and information retained by the Office could be made more transparent.

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs has worked to make our activities more transparent to the public in several ways. The Office has completed a substantial update of its website to provide more relevant information on the myriad of benefits, services, community programs, and other events available for veterans and their family members at the federal and District levels. Moreover, the Office distributes a bi-monthly newsletter to over 9,650 recipients. This newsletter is disseminated via email and text message alerts. Furthermore, the Office has worked to host regular community engagements, such as our veteran round table series, which give veterans an opportunity to engage directly with the Office and have input on programs and initiatives. The Office also works to connect the veteran community with Budget Engagement Forums and other opportunities to engage with the Bowser Administration. Finally, the Office increased its televised, print, web, and radio press activity to notify DC veterans and their families about upcoming events, programs, and services.**

17. What collaborations, initiatives, or programs have been successful in FY18 and FY19 to date? Why were they successful?

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs has another successful year in which we delivered new collaborations, initiatives, and programs (as outlined in question 16).**

**These new programs are successful in large part because they deliver specific value to various segments of the District's veteran population. By design, each program includes at least one community or government partner, which aids the program in gaining immediate traction and attention in the veteran community. Moreover, the programs are supported and advertised by a robust outreach campaign, which aids in ensuring that as many veterans, family members, and veteran service organizations are aware of and able to participate in the event.**

18. How does the Office solicit feedback from customers? Please describe.

**At present, the Office solicits feedback from customers through direct engagement at community events. Feedback is also provided through the Office’s Twitter and Instagram accounts, which have a combined total of 1,500 followers.**

- a. What has the Office learned from this feedback?

**Through this feedback, the Office has learned that our veteran community has been pleased with our operations over the last year and wants them to grow. We have received very positive feedback on our community engagement events (e.g., veteran round tables and Veterans Day of Service). Moreover, we have received significant and overwhelmingly positive feedback on our bi-monthly newsletter and claims services.**

- b. How has the Office changed its practices because of such feedback?

**As with all operations, there is always room for improvement. The Office has worked with its new DVSO to ensure our claims appointments provided ample time to complete all necessary work and follow up, ensuring quality service.**

**Other members of the community, particularly our aging veterans, have asked for more information to be disseminated on non-web-based platforms. In response to this request, we created monthly one pager and a comprehensive District Veteran Resource Guide. During FY19, the Office will be developing pamphlets for Returning Citizen veterans, LGBTQ veterans, and a comprehensive MOVA design for distribution. Furthermore, we’ve been notifying veterans via text message that our newsletter has been published and a “text to subscribe” feature allowing those without an email address to connect with the Office.**

19. Please provide a list of all studies, research papers, and analyses (“studies”) the Office requested, prepared, or contracted for FY18 and FY19 to date. Please state the status and purpose of each study.

**The Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs has not commissioned any studies for FY18 and FY19.**

20. How many community-based grants were awarded in FY 2018?

**The Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs does not award community-based grants.**

21. How many community-based grants have been or will be awarded in FY 2019?

**The Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs does not award community-based grants.**

22. Please list each contract, procurement, lease, and grant (contract) awarded or entered by your office during FY 2018 – FY 2019 to date. For each contract, please provide the following information where applicable.
  - a. The nature of the contracting party.
  - b. The nature of the contract, including the product or service.

- c. The dollar amount of the contract, including the budgeted amount and the amount spent.
- d. The term of the contract.
- e. Whether the contract was competitively bid or not.
- f. Funding source

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs did not conduct any purchase orders for FY18 or FY19.**

23. Did the Office conduct oversight of the organization to which its awards grants to ensure funds are used as intended? If so, how many oversights?

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs does not award community-based grants.**

24. Of the organizations that received a community-based grant in FY 2018, how many also received community-based grants in FY 2017?

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs does not award community-based grants.**

25. Please describe how an organization is selected to receive a community-based grant.

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs does not award community-based grants.**

26. Did the Office receive any grants in FY 2018? If so, what was the source and duration of the grant(s), and what was it used to accomplish?

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs does not award community-based grants.**

27. Has the Office sought any grant opportunities in FY 2018?

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs has not sought any grant opportunities.**

28. Does the Office ever request internal or external audits to be conducted on the operation of your office as a precautionary tool?

**No, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs has not requested an internal or external audit be conducted for the Office. MOVA follows all record keeping and fiscal requirements. Moreover, we participate in any audits that may be required.**

29. What are the Office's goals going forward in FY2019?

**The goals of the Office moving forward in FY 2019 are:**

- 1. Sustain and build upon the current level of operations and deliver quality results to the District's veteran population while the quantity and quality of programs and services increases.**

2. **Continue to connect veterans, family members, survivors, and caregivers to the services and benefits they have earned.**
3. **Continue to identify quality strategic partners to provide additional services, benefits, and opportunities for the District's veteran population.**
4. **Identify and engage with new segments of the District's veteran population.**
5. **Connect more veterans and their families with Mayor Bowser's programs and provide pathways to the middle class for our veteran residents.**

**Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs for the District of Columbia**

30. Has the Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs for the District of Columbia (Advisory Board) been active? If so, when was the last meeting?

**Yes, the Mayor's Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs has been active and meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The last Advisory Board meeting was held on February 5, 2019.**

31. In what capacity has the Advisory Board worked with the MOVA?

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs provides logistical support to facilitate the monthly meetings of the Mayor's Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs. The Advisory Board meets monthly on the first Tuesday of every month, and MOVA's Director provides a comprehensive update on operations to the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board has worked with MOVA to inform and develop veteran initiatives and programs. Moreover, the board members have been instrumental in supporting and attending our community events such as our bi-weekly veteran round tables and our Veterans Day of Service project in Ward 7. Finally, the Office supported the Advisory Board during its July 2018 DC Veterans Summit, where Board members, service organizations, and DC veterans researched and discussed possible policy ideas or changes for DC veterans.**

32. How has the Advisory Board helped enhance the capacity of government agencies and other organizations to secure resources?

**The Mayor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Board serves as an advisory body to the Mayor, the Mayor's Office of Boards and Commissions, the Office of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Employment Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and other District government departments, agencies, and offices on all matters pertaining to Veterans in the District of Columbia.**

33. What are your top five priorities for the Advisory Board? Please provide a detailed explanation for how the Board expects to achieve or work toward these priorities in FY18.

**The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs top five priorities for the Advisory Board are as follows.**

**(1) The first goal for the Advisory Board is to hold a monthly meeting during the calendar year. MOVA has worked with the leadership of the Advisory Board to identify the first Tuesday of every month as the meeting date for the board. The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs has published notice of the meeting in the D.C. Register, on our website, and posted the notice on our office.**

**(2) The second goal for the Advisory Board is to drive more community engagement around the board's monthly meetings. While the Advisory Board's monthly meetings have become an event, which has continued to garner significant interest from the community, more public attendance is always necessary. MOVA is working with the Chairman of the Advisory Board to identify ways in which the Advisory Board can foster more community participation. The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs has published notice of the meeting in the D.C. Register, on our website, and posted the notice on our office. Moreover, the Office publishes notice of the monthly meetings in our bi-monthly newsletters.**

**(3) The third goal for the Advisory Board is to use the monthly meetings as a platform to highlight the Bowser Administration's programs, the service of our partner organizations, and to engage new community partners to support our collective work in the District to serve veterans. Often, members of the Advisory Board and the Office of Veterans Affairs invite community partners to give a presentation to the Advisory Board and members of the public in attendance. This has been a successful engagement tool and one that we are working to formalize. Our goal is to host at least one partner organization or potential partner organization at every monthly meeting. The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and the leadership of the Advisory Board are actively working to recruit organizations to join the monthly meeting.**

**(4) The fourth goal for the Advisory Board is to encourage board members to work with and continue to develop their personal networks to disseminate information on services, benefits, events, and programs available for veterans in Washington D.C.**

**(5) The fifth goal for the Advisory Board is to work in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs to organize a comprehensive Veterans Summit for veterans and organizations in Washington, DC the Advisory Board and the Mayor's Office have begun initial planning and discussions on scope, purpose, and timing. These planning sessions are ongoing.**

34. Please provide a list of all current Advisory Board vacancies and an estimated timeline to fill those vacancies.

**At present, there are no vacancies.**

35. Please describe the training and informational sessions you provide and/or coordinate for the Advisory Board? What is the frequency of these sessions?

**Upon appointment, members of the Advisory Board receive Ethics, Open Government, and Sexual Harassment Prevention training.**

36. Please provide a list of types and dates of training/information sessions for the Advisory Board you have planned for FY19.

**At present, the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs does not have any training or information sessions planned for the Advisory Board in FY19 beyond our scheduled monthly meetings.**

37. What areas (e.g., financial training, procedural training) do you think the Advisory Board needs the most assistance with?

**At present, the Advisory Board does not need training assistance.**