



# CITY OF PLAINFIELD

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

#### **MAYOR SHARON ROBINSON-BRIGGS ANNOUNCES THE MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**PLAINFIELD** – On Thursday, June 7, 2012, Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs announced the newly created Mayor's Advisory Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs. The committee will meet on a monthly basis at City Hall Library. The meetings are open to the public.

The responsibilities of The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs include gauge future trends, seek new strategic positions, and identify upcoming political, legislative and regulatory developments. The members are Frank Coit, Lisa Dixon, Herb Goins, James Hill, Leslie Knight, Lamar Mackson, Frank Rivers, and Alex Toliver.

“The wars of Iraq and Afghanistan are ending and the nation's legislative developments are rapidly changing. This advisory committee will gather that information and brief not just me, but our area veterans on policy priorities,” said Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs. “Each month, a special guest from a veterans or military organization will attend and brief the committee and attendees on new agenda items being considered at the state and national level.”

In July, The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs is honored to have **Mike Simpson** as their first, special guest speaker. Originally from England, Mike served in the British Army 1962 to 1968. Simpson came to the U.S. in 1977 and moved to Holmdel in 1994. Simpson is the Emergency Management Coordinator for Holmdel Township, and President of NJ Run for the Fallen.

In August, the committee welcomes **Jack Fanous**. Jack is the Founder and Executive Director of The GI Go Fund. Under Jack's leadership, the GI Go Fund created the first-in-the-nation, City Hall Office for Veterans through a partnership with Newark Mayor Cory Booker. The Fund created the concept of a Transition Fair, which serves as a one stop fair for all veterans needs from education, to health benefits, as well as providing access to jobs. The organization pioneered the concept of the Midnight Outreach Mission for homeless veterans, providing services to our most at need veterans on the streets where they live. On June 3, the GI Go Fund was featured in the Season Premiere of ABC's *Secret Millionaire*. The program reaches approximately 15 million households.

Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs announced the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, 2012 at the Veterans Memorial at City Hall. City Hall is located at 515 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

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- **Note:** Mayor Robinson-Briggs also discussed the Returning Heroes Parade on Saturday, July 7, 2012 as part of the city's 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Also in attendance was special guest speaker and parade participant, Jack Fanous of GI Go Fund.
- **Save the Date: Flag Day Ceremony** - Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Mayor Robinson-Briggs unveils the newly restored, tapered, wooden flag pole at city hall. Featured guests to be announced.