

The National Disabled Veteran Business Council, Inc., a Florida registered 501 (c) 19 Veteran Service Organization headquartered in West Palm Beach, provides advocacy for Veterans in business, coupled with Veteran initiatives in: Affordable Housing, Education, Job Training and Paid Skill Assessment, all provided from an empowerment platform.

I have been serving the NDVBC as their Executive Director for the past 18 months. I have had no prior experience with the Salvation Army before my involvement with the NDVBC, so the issues that the NDVBC is experiencing are quite troubling.

Pam Berry, has be nothing more to our organization than an obstructionist. Her unprofessional email responses coupled with her overall non-responsiveness has been something to be reckoned with, to say the least. One of many, Veteran initiatives, that Salvation Army residents can certainly benefit from, is our Paid Skill Assessment Program. It was developed because we have found that most resumes posted on Career Source's web site were found not to be accurate.

Once accepted into the program, the Veteran will have their skills assessed during a 90 - 180 day time period, in the field of construction services. Upon successful completion, the Veteran has the opportunity to be referred to one of our, for-profit business partners for employment.

Over the last 18 months, there has not been a single Salvation Army resident, Veteran or non Veteran, referred to our program. In fact, those Salvation Army residents that learned about our program from our own outreach efforts, has been discouraged, dissuaded and outright threatened not to work with the NDVBC for fear of eviction and loss of benefits.

Certain Salvation Army staff have made defamatory remarks about our organization and slandered specific NDVBC Board members and staff.

This behavior, coming from an organization with such a long history in the community and being funded with taxpayer dollars, is unacceptable. These remarks and behavior, that are steaming from your West Palm Beach facility, have been commiserating with another State funded agency, Career Source of West Palm Beach.

Because of the behavior from your Salvation Army staff, the NDVBC has suffered immeasurable damages, but more importantly, many Salvation Army residents, many whom are Veterans, have been denied our affordable housing and positive employment services they need.

The Board of Directors of the NDVBC are requesting that your office launch an internal investigation to rectify these issues so that the NDVBC does not have to pursue an external and very public investigation, which will certainly have a negative impact on your funding.

Please advise.

Enthusiastically,

Michael Bolduc

Executive Director

NDVBC.ORG

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