

Community Board 1 Queens Full Board / Public Hearing Meeting
Tuesday October 21, 2025

Present:	Brian Martinez	Excused
Daniel Aliberti	Amin Mehedi	Kian Bentancourt
Michelle Amor	Andreas Migias	Jean Marie D'Alleva
Cristian Batres	Stella Nicolaou	Katie Ellman
Gerald Caliendo	Dino Panagoulas	Elizabeth Erion
Christina Chaise	Phyllis Parra	Frank Fredericks
Stacey Eliuk	Juliet Payabyab	Christopher Hanway
Robert Feltault	Thomas Ryan	Jacqueline Ibarra
Dean Feratovic	Plinia Sarchese	Vanessa Jones-Hall
Adam Fisher-Cox	Dominic Stiller	Huge Ma
Tyrone Gardner	Rod Townsend	RoseMarie Poveromo
Shahenaz Hamde	Judy Trilivas	Marie Torniali
Evie Hantzopoulos	Ryan Van Manen	Kathleen Warnock
Amy Hau	Mario Vergara	Quinella Williams
Richard Khuzami	Corinne Wood-Haynes	Absent
Athanasios Magoutas	Pablo Zuniga	Jaqueline Diaz
Patricia Mahecha		Thomas Wright - Fernandez

Board Staff:

Florence Koulouris, District Manager

Elected Official / Representatives:

Office Borough President - Clare Collins

Congress Ocasio-Cortez - Angela Sherpa

Senator K Gonzalez - Kaylyn Munoz

Assembly S Raga - Kazi Maryam

Assembly J G-Rojas - Christian Gills

Assembly Mamdani - Benjamin Lotto

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Agenda presented.

Presentation and Q&A: YouTube marker 0:01:50

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz - The District Attorney discussed the difference between misdemeanors and felonies and explained how each suspect coming through her office is vetted for mental health issues. The office handles 60,000 arrests every year with 47,000 arraignments every year. The District Attorney's office has helped about 43,000 individuals through victim services. The office balances about 1,500 gun cases at once - which would be possession, shootings murder, assault.

The DA discussed the following cases:

The stabbing murder of an EMS Lieutenant who was buying coffee in a bodega. The suspect was convicted and was sentenced to 25 years to life; The case of a well-publicized home invasion. The suspect is facing 13 life sentences; The case of a plastic surgeon practicing without a license which resulted in death.

The DA also spoke about her focus on preventing car thefts and her office addressing the scooter problem in the borough.

The DA discussed her staff and their interaction with the community to help people protect themselves from crime.

The DA discussed her office addressing retail theft through the "Trespass Affidavit Program" which gives people a second chance so they don't go directly to jail. Instead the accused is not allowed to return to the store. 1400 Affidavits were given out and only 100 returned to that store. Those people received the mental health help they need.

Lastly, the DA discussed the various scams that are occurring where people call seniors pretending to be their children or grandchildren who need money for bail, or they receive a call from someone saying they are from the DA's office asking for money for bail. Also, she cautioned about romance scams and advised people to contact her office if they were a victim of a scam and they will try to get their money back.

Dan Aliberti: What do you say to people who are involved in romance scams who don't believe you when you explain they are being scammed.

DA Katz: I don't have official advice, but I would ask if they have ever Facetimed with the person. Do they know who that person really is?

Tom Ryan: People with long rap sheets are let out of jail. When will it stop?

DA Katz: The law has changed for the better and now they allow District Attorneys to ask for bail and we do when someone has multiple arrests. We can always hold someone on violent crimes. NY is the only state where you can't ask because someone is a danger, but usually the violent crime overlaps.

Stacey Eliuk: How do you combat scams using AI?

DA Katz: I have experts on board who are experts on these types of scams. We are able to get people's money back when it comes to crypto-currency. We had an issue with Stub Hub where 2 people were diverting emails. It was a \$600,000 scam. We have modernized the office with technology and experts.

Christina Chaise: What is your office doing about targeted sexual violence and guns?

DA Katz: When I became DA I formed the Human Trafficking Bureau, especially because we have 2 airports and many hotels that service those airports. We go out in the community to hand out fliers to prostitutes who may need help. We also have a Youth Bureau, so young people understand gun violence and how to be safe. We try to stop people from getting involved in violent situations. The Special Victims Bureau also works with youth. We don't just prosecute - we educate and direct people towards the help they need. My staff have to go to community events because you can't be a good prosecutor if you don't know the neighborhoods.

Presentation Q&A YouTube Marker 0:29:04

Alexander Kipp, Director of Education & Engagement, NYC Conflicts of Interest Board - Gave a presentation about how board members comply with New York City conflict of interest laws. The two most important things that a Community Board member needs to know is that they are allowed to have discussions on matters where they have a conflict of interest as long as they disclose the conflict before participating in the discussion. However, a Community Board member may NOT vote on a matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest. When it comes to conflict of interest it can be an associated benefit or a direct benefit. Associated benefit means someone associated with you like a spouse, a parent, a sibling, child, a registered domestic partner or anyone with whom you have a financial relationship such as a landlord, a debtor, a creditor, someone who co-signed on your student loans, a client in your private practice or not for profit if you sit on its board or your private employer or the business you own. These are the types of entities that

you might be associated with which would cause a conflict of interest so you cannot vote. Direct benefit means that the financial benefit goes right to you. An easy way to sum it up is - Disclose - Discuss - Don't Vote.

Chairing a Committee - Conflict of interest can also impact committee chairmanship. If there's any issue where the chair must disclose, discuss, don't vote, somebody else has to chair that meeting to preside over that action. If the chair of a committee has to disclose, discuss, don't vote 3 times in a 12 month period, that person cannot chair that committee, however, s/he may remain on the committee as a member.

Quorum - Conflict does not affect quorum. If a person discloses then that person is not counted in the vote at all. When you disclose you don't say "abstain" because that is someone who is eligible to vote but chooses not to vote so the person remains in the vote tally. You say "ineligible" which means you are taken out of the count.

Gifts - The law states that no public servant can take a gift valued at more than \$50 from anyone doing business with the City of New York.

City Resources - May only be used for community business, not for financial gain.

Political - You can not do political business on the Community Board.

Presenting to the Community Board After You Leave Service - You may not present before the Community Board you served on after you leave on behalf of anyone you have a financial relationship with for one year.

Community Board Members ONLY Represent the Community. They do not represent private entities, friends, establishments they frequent, etc.

AOD@COI.nyc.gov is the email address to ask questions of the Conflict of Interest Board with any questions. The questions can be anonymous.

Q&A

Dan Aliberti - Are there penalties for violating the Conflict of Interest laws?

Alexander Kipp - There are many levels of penalty. If accidental, it may only be a letter. If it is knowingly, you can get serious fines and criminal penalties.

Item #1: 32nd Street Demapping C 250068 MMQ For CB Public Hearing and Vote YouTube marker 0:59:48

Application by Grace Lutheran Church to Amend the City Map to eliminate, discontinue and close a portion of 32nd Street between Ditmars Boulevard and 21st Avenue in Astoria. <https://zap.planning.nyc.gov/projects/2023Q0430>
No development is proposed for the area - it is just to remove the encumbrance of this mapped but unbuilt street from the school property. The property is currently used as a playground. There have been no objections from elected officials, government agencies or utility companies to the paper street being removed.

Q&A

Adam Fisher-Cox - Asked how the City could take over property if it is private.

Ben Stark - It's not public until the City acquires the title. There are paper streets all over our city. There happens to be more unbuilt paper streets in Queens than the other boroughs. The City could take the title of the property.

Dan Aliberti - Asked what the precipitating event is that is making the school ask for the demapping today.

Ben Stark - After the sale of some development rights, there is an endowment now to complete this expensive (\$60,000) demapping exercise. Also, though no one is trying to take the title now, that may not be the case in the future. The church wants to improve the playground without the concern that title can be taken.

Ryan Van Manen - Asked if there is any interest by DOT to connect to 21st?

Ben Stark - There is no interest according to our investigation with Queens BP.

Dominic Stiller - Asked if the playground could be opened up to the community for use.

Ben Stark - That would be something we would have to discuss due to insurance liability issues.

Stacey Eliuk - If it is passed, can the property be used it for other uses?

Ben Stark - It could only be used for open uses.

Christina Chaise - Commented that as an alumni, she supported the school opening the playground to the community.

Public Q&A

Kimberly Vasillio - Spoke in favor of the demapping

Courtney Steers - Spoke in favor of the demapping

Erin Gilbreth - Spoke in favor of the demapping

Public Session: YouTube marker 1:24:50

Debbie Riggus: Thanked the board and community members for getting the renovated portion of Astoria park open. Asked what could be done about the trash along the sidewalks around construction sites.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Chair Evie Hantzopoulos requested a call to 311 to create a paper trail for the city.

Lisette Cologne - Wants to know what is happening on Steinway Street with respect to commercial entities.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Will put her in touch with the Steinway BID.

Donald Cogdall Jr. Director of Justice at Hope Astoria Church - Asking members to put pressure on City Planning to create real affordable housing in One LIC. Invited members and the community to their November Harvest fair.

Jennifer Lopez - Thanked the board for its support for helping to protect women with the arrest of Malik Maya who was harassing women. As the founder of Astoria Parents Against Noise, asked why out of the 5,239 noise complaints to 311 the 114th precinct responded and observed no evidence of a violation at that time.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Requested that the issue be brought up to the public safety committee and the Community Precinct Council.

Angel Hart, Long Island City Partnership - Requested that the community participate in a Greening and Cleaning Survey; informed about a public meeting on November 5th for a mobility study at Queens Plaza and Jackson Avenue - public mee. So. Please come to the public meeting on November 5th over Zoom; open street on Vernon Boulevard on Halloween from 4 to 6.

Jeannie Ortiz - Requested the immediate return of the Q102 and reinstate several Q18 school bus stops along 29th Street and 30th Avenue going both ways; the top of the hill on 8th Street and 27th Avenue going both ways and 30th Avenue and 14th Street heading towards 4th Street. Also, the reinstatement of the Q19 bus stop on Astoria Blvd and 18th Street.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - The transportation committee will take note of that as part of the work they are doing with the MTA.

Aida Marquetti - Asked for the return of the bus stop on Eve Street and 27th Avenue. Seniors and disabled can not make the walk up and down the hill.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Please sign up for our email newsletter so you can get notifications for all the meetings. The transportation committee is holding discussions with the MTA about the bus route changes. Please send your letter to the Community Board and get your comments into the MTA on their website.

Gloria Maloney, Dutch Kill Civic Association - Spoke about the MTA bus redesign and the problems with 36th Avenue as a bus route. Also asked if there was a decision on the bike lanes.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - There is not an answer yet.

Business Session - YouTube Marker 0:51:28

Motion to Approve September 2025 Minutes - Tom Ryan; Second - Amin Mehedi:

No Discussion

Motion carried unanimously

Chair Report, Evie Hantzopoulos: YouTube marker 1:51:45

Informed the members that Dominique Robinson resigned from the board due to work commitments. The Board wishes her well in her new endeavor. Reminded the board that there are proposals on the November 4th ballot pertaining to the role of Community Board and City Council on issues of land use. The Council held an info session about the proposal. Some were for and some were against. Will circulate information so that people can make up their own minds.

District Manager Report, Florence Koulouris: YouTube marker 1:53:00

Announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness and Breast Cancer Awareness month according to the Human Resources Administration and the Department of Health. Both share information on the website. The domestic violence hotline (800) 799-7233 (SAFE) February is teen domestic violence awareness month. Learn more about it at TDVAM@loveisrespect.org.; The Parks Department announced that the community can follow events and track projects they are doing on their website. The Department of Education has new rules with respect to cell phones and internet devices; The schools may utilize options such as pouches, lockers, bins for flexibility. These rules will impact bell-to-bell use but will not impact air tags. The office met with City agencies regarding FY 2027 and provided agency requests to the board's capital expense committee for their review.

Committee Reports: YouTube marker 1:55:38

Business and Economic Development - No report

Capital and Expense Budget, Amy Hau - YouTube marker 1:56:20

The Capital requests are within the limit of 40 so it will be submitted as is. The Expense requests need to be paired down to 40 items to submit by October 30th. Requested permission to cut the list down based on prior discussions with the committees.

Motion to allow the Capital & Expense Committee determine the final 40 expense items to be included on the list to be submitted by the Board office - Thomas Ryan Second - Amin Mehedi

Motion passes unanimously.

Communications and Public Outreach, Quinella Williams - No Report

Consumer Affairs - YouTube marker 2:03:00

The committee had no objections to the applicants.

Motion to approve the liquor licenses as they appear on the list - Andreas Migias second - Thomas Ryan. No Discussion. Motion passes with 2 abstentions.

Motion to approve the outdoor dining licenses as they appear on the list - Thomas Ryan second - Phyllis Parra. Discussion:

Rod Townsend - Johanas Bakery and Coffee is asking permission for outside dining as a new applicant but they have been engaged in outdoor dining for months.

Motion passes

No cannabis applications.

Education, Libraries, Youth Services, Amin Mehedi YouTube marker 2:05:29 - There was a meeting on September 29, 2025, discussion about youth and vaping. Please review the letter for next month.

Environmental and Sanitation, Patricia Mahecha YouTube marker 2:06:51

Meeting on September 25, 2025, was a presentation by Micro Grid Networks regarding their proposed battery energy storage system project located along the BQE service road. The site is not near residential areas and it will provide approximately 10 megabytes of energy to support the Long Island City network. The project is designed to reduce dependence on local plants and charging during peak hours and discharging during peak demand periods leading to a more efficient and sustainable energy system. Members of the Community Board conducted a site visit to Micro Grid Networks in Brooklyn where they noted that the operation was well organized. MGN is requesting a letter of support from us regarding the location.

Motion to provide a letter of site approval to Micro Grid Networks - Patricia Mahecha Second - Thomas Ryan. Discussion

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Was surprised to see a request for tax abatement as part of the support letter.

Thomas Ryan - Supports the letter.

Motion passes; No objections; No abstentions.

Health and Human Services, Shahrenaz Hamde YouTube marker 2:11:01

The committee met on September 18, 2025 to work on the Capital and Expense list which was submitted to the committee.

Housing, Katie Elliman - No report.

Land Use, Andreas Migias YouTube marker 2:11:40

Motion to approve C 250068 MMQ to amend the City Map to eliminate, discontinue and close a portion of 32nd Street between Ditmars Boulevard and 21st Avenue in Astoria: **Andreas Migias Second - Amin Mehdi**

No Discussion

By Roll Call - Motion passes: 32 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions

Legal, Legislative, Parliamentary, Rod Townsend - YouTube marker 2:50:00

There will be a meeting on November 3, 2025.

Office Budget & Staff Committee Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: YouTube marker 2:17:14

Meeting in November.

Parks and Recreation, Richard Khuzami: YouTube marker 2:17:19

There was a meeting on October 6, 2025. Presentation by the Parks Department about the possibility of covering the tennis courts in Astoria Park with a bubble. No action needed at this time. There is a petition to return Baby Park back to its original design which would be more green space. The committee supported this.

Motion for a letter to be sent to New York City Parks Department to expand Baby Park - Richard Khuzami second - Christian Batres

Discussion

Christina Chaise - Questioned how the park fits into the One LIC plans.

Rod Townsend - Moves to send the motion back to committee second - **Christina Chaise.**

Richard Khuzami - Withdraws the motion.

Motion to send a letter supporting Grow NYC farmers market requesting that they seek other locations where fresh food is not readily available. Richard Khuzami second - Rod Townsend

Discussion

Christina Chaise - Requests that they add Queensbridge Houses as one of the sites since there is a food desert there.

Shahenaz Hamde - Spoke in support of the farmer's market.

Rod Townsend - Wanted to clarify whether Grow NYC wanted a letter of support.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Grow NYC requested the letter of support.

Amin Mehedi - 31st Avenue is the best place for a farmers' market because Athens Park is empty.

Robert Feltault - Astoria Farmers Market runs a once a month market at this location.

Christina Chaise - Offers an amendment to the motion to identify Queensbridge Houses as a location for a farmers' market because there is limited fresh food available.

Richard Khuzami - Amendment accepted

Motion to send a letter to Grow NYC supporting a farmers' market at locations where fresh food availability is limited including Queensbridge Houses - 41st Avenue & Vernon Boulevard. Christina Chaise second - Rod Townsend

Discussion

Stella Nicolau - Wants to add more locations.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - The letter states "other locations."

Rod Townsend - Call the question.

Motion to call the question passes.

Motion passes; No Opposed, No Abstentions.

Rod Townsend - call the question on the original motion.

Motion to call the question passes.

Motion passes; No Opposed, No Abstentions.

Public Safety, Chris Hanway: No report.

Transportation, Dominic Stiller YouTube marker 2:31:56

No report. PSA - the MTA bus routes are not one and done. The best way to get things changed is to give feedback. If you Google search for Queens Bus Design Service Changes you will get to a page to give your feedback.

Dino Panagoulas - Wanted to know how the community could get feedback to the MTA to force them to act sooner.

Dominic Stiller - The best way is for everyone to provide feedback via the website. The MTA has not started ripping up the shelters. They are purposely waiting to receive feedback from the users.

Christina Chaise - Residents of the Queensbridge Houses are upset by the changes. There are many people with disabilities living there and they can't make it up the hill.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - We are referring this back to the Transportation Committee to continue to work with MTA.

New Business: YouTube marker 2:35:25

Richard Khuzami - Regarding the ballot initiatives on November 4, 2025, the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association will be hosting a zoom meeting to discuss the ballot initiatives. The Charter Commission will be explaining these initiatives plus we have a representative from the head of planning for the City Council and a representative of an organization called "Yes for Affordable Housing". It will be Thursday night at 6:30pm. Go to the website for the Old Astoria Neighborhood for information.

Motion for the Community Board to direct the Transportation Committee to draft a letter to the MTA to replace the bus stop at the top of the hill. Rod Townsend second Dino Panagoulas

Discussion

Athanasios Magoutas - I'm not opposed. Do we just do that without MTA there?

Dominic Stiller - I think that is a good idea. If the District Manager could email us the locations that were identified today we will draft the letter.

Florence Koulouris - The office has been forwarding all the information we have been getting from the community regarding these changes. Recommends a meeting with the MTA.

Dominic Stiller - Requesting a list of complaints and any communications with the MTA.

Amin Mehedi - MTA should be invited to the MTA meeting.

Rod Townsend - Call the question.

Motion to call the question passes.

Motion passes, No Opposed, No Abstentions

Elected Official YouTube Marker 02:41:37

Senator K Gonzalez - Kaylyn Munoz: The office collaborated with Assemblymember Mamdani's office to give away back packs at Ravenswood Family Day. Upcoming events Hybrid State of the District Town Hall on Monday, November 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at CUNY School of Law discussing how the federal budget cuts will affect New Yorkers, the state of our districts, and more. The event will be recorded and livestreamed.

Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez Rojas - Christian Gills: Our office is hosting a tenant legal service for constituents to receive direct assistance from an attorney about tenant rights, rent stabilization rights, how to deal with eviction proceedings and discrimination in housing. Office members will be at Jackson Heights Beautification Group's Halloween parade on October 31st at 5:00 pm until 8:00 PM. Team JGR will be in Astoria later this week on Friday at the District 30.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, Angela Sherpa - We are in the third week of the government shutdown. Our team will be hosting a federal worker resource fair this Thursday in Jackson Heights at AYM Studios from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Congressional App Challenge is currently underway. If you know any students in middle school or high school that are interested in building an app and competing for the challenge our office is accepting applications until October 30th. Our office is also accepting applications for nominations to the military service academy until October 30th as well. You can give us a call anytime at 718-662-5970 and we're available at our Astoria office on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Assemblymember S Raga - Kazi Maryam: We moved our office. The new address is 6010 Queens Boulevard, lower level. Our phone number remains the same, which is 718 651 3185. For upcoming mobile office hours, we will be having one in Maspeth, which will be held on Wednesday, November 5th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm at Maspeth Public Library, In Elmhurst. It will be held on November 19th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and that will be at Elmhurst Public Library. Lastly, in Woodside on Wednesday, November 26 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Woodside Public Library.

Queens Borough President: On Thursday, October 23rd, we have a South Queens job fair from 2 to 5:00 p.m. at Ozone Park Library, 9224, Rockway Boulevard. On Friday, October 24th at 11:00 a.m. we will host an omni workshop in partnership with the MTA at Howard Beach Older Adult Center. at 15-55 Cross Bay Boulevard. On November 19th at 6pm we are hosting a Transgender Day Remembrance Ceremony, at Queens Borough Hall at 12-55 Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens. You can find the RSVP link at queensbp.nyc.gov 718 286 3000

Assembly Mamdani - Benjamin Lotto: As the cold approaches, our office continues to hold various forms of constituent services. Please know we are a resource for you and all constituents when it comes to quality of life concerns. At the state level, as was mentioned before, we are happy to report that we handed out over a thousand backpacks alongside government and community partners to constituents. Now we're hosting and participating in a slew of events. This fall and winter. This past week we visited the ASPCA Queens Community Vet Center to discuss low cost vet options for Astorians and Long Island City residents. This week, we're participating in Queensbridge Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, supporting the grand opening of Connected Chef's new location, and excitedly co-hosting a trunk or treat event at Astoria Park this Friday 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

YouTube marker 2:49:06

Motion to adjourn Thomas Ryan second Amin Mehedi

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, QUEENS

ATTENDANCE FULL BOARD MEETING

Date: 10/21/2025

KEY:

P Present
A Absent
E Excused

	Community Board Member	P	A	E
1	DANIEL ALIBERTI	✓		
2	MICHELLE AMOR	✓		
3	CRISTIAN BATRES	✓		
4	KIAN BETANCOURT			✓
5	GERALD CALIENDO	✓		
6	CHRISTINA CHAISE	✓		
7	JEAN MARIE D'ALLEVA			✓
8	JACQUELINE DIAZ		✓	
9	STACEY ELIUK	✓		
10	KATIE ELLMAN			✓
11	ELIZABETH ERION			✓
12	ROBERT FELTAULT	✓		
13	DEAN FERATOVIC	✓		
14	ADAM FISHER-COX	✓		
15	FRANK FREDERICKS			✓
16	TYRONE GARDNER	✓		
17	SHAHENAZ HAMDE	✓		
18	EVIE HANTZOPOULOS	✓		
19	CHRISTOPHER HANWAY			✓
20	AMY HAU	✓		
21	JACQUELINE IBARRA			✓
22	VANESSA JONES-HALL			✓
23	RICHARD KHUZAMI	✓		
24	HUGE MA			✓
25	ATHANASIOS MAGOUTAS	✓		

	Community Board Member	P	A	E
26	PATRICIA MAHECHA	✓		
27	BRIAN MARTINEZ	✓		
28	AMIN MEHEDI	✓		
29	ANDREAS MIGIAS	✓		
30	STELLA NICOLAOU	✓		
31	DINO PANAGOULIAS	✓		
32	PHYLLIS PARRA	✓		
33	JULIET PAYABYAB	✓		
34	ROSEMARIE POVEROMO			✓
35	THOMAS RYAN	✓		
36	PLINIA SARCHESE	✓		
37	DOMINIC STILLER	✓		
38	MARIE TORNIALI			✓
39	ROD TOWNSEND	✓		
40	JUDY TRILIVAS	✓		
41	RYAN VAN MANEN	✓		
42	MARIO VERGARA	✓		
43	KATHLEEN WARNOCK			✓
44	QUINELLA WILLIAMS			✓
45	CORINNE WOOD-HAYNES	✓		
46	THOMAS WRIGHT FERNANDEZ		✓	
47	PABLO ZUNIGA	✓		

Number of Board Members Present

32

PRESENT

32

ABSENT

2

EXCUSED

13