

**Community Board 1 Queens Full Board / Public Hearing Meeting Transcript  
Tuesday January 20, 2026**

**Present:**

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

**Board Staff:**

**Florence Koulouris, District Manager**

**Elected Official / Representatives:**

**BP Donovan - Claire Collins**

**Assembly Raga – Kazi Maryam**

**CM Caban - Tessa Blum**

**Senator K Gonzalez - Kaylyn Munoz**

**Senator Stavisky - Judy Lee**

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. The Chairwoman presented the agenda then welcomed Tanya Thomas from the New York City Department of Veterans' Services to provide a presentation.

**Presentation - NYC Department of Veterans' Services - YouTube marker 0:03:46**

**Tanya Thomas, Senior Outreach Specialist** - Provided an overview of the agency service area as well as the services the agency provides including: assisting veterans to prepare requests for compensation through NYS and Federal agencies; assist veterans to secure housing; assist veterans to achieve discharge upgrades; Mission Vet Check to check in on veterans to ensure they have the help they need and are not in distress (volunteers needed); Final Honors Program lays veterans who don't have family to rest in a dignified manner; ensuring that veterans and their families are aware that they are eligible tax free for compensation through the PACT ACT; assist veterans with employment or achieving entrepreneurial endeavors; Veterans' Voices Project captures the experience of veterans so the public can understand what veterans endure during service; Physical and mental wellness assistance for veterans and their families. Working with BP Richards office, they are preparing for a ticker tape parade to welcome home veterans and remember those who didn't come home.

**Question & Answers -**

**Daniel Aliberti** - How many veterans live in New York City; what percentage of those are served; is there a limit on the amount of benefits a veteran can receive; will the parade be in Manhattan?

**Tanya Thomas** - The parade will be in the Canyon of Heroes; there has been a decline in the number of veterans living in New York City. The website provides an interactive map that provides accurate data; 100% compensation for a single veteran is approximately \$3,300 plus healthcare. There are additional funds for spouses and families.

**Kathleen Warnock:** Wondered if the agency assisted people with less than an honorable discharge.

**Tanya Thomas** - There is a state program through the Department of Veterans Services for the state of New York called Restoration of Honor where we connect veterans to pro bono legal assistance to help them achieve a discharge upgrade.

**Christina Chaise** - Does the office assist veterans seeking housing?

**Tanya Thomas** - The agency connects veterans to organizations to help them find housing. Veteran peer coordinators help veterans come out of shelters into housing; a more sensitive situation is working with homeless veterans who aren't in a shelter and trying to ensure they get into a safe place with mental health support;

**Christopher Hanway** - Requested a presentation be made to local senior centers.

**Tanya Thomas** - Outreach to senior veterans is ongoing. Senior centers are a good place for outreach.

**Richard Khuzami** - Asked if the agency works to legalize veterans' immigrant families and whether they need funding through the state and federal government for that work.

**Tanya Thomas** - The demands on the agency for immigration assistance is growing due to current conditions. The agency connects veterans with legal professionals who can help with immigration status, however, the legal offices that deal with immigration are overwhelmed at this time. Will do research and provide data to the board office about state and federal funding numbers.

**Stacey Eliuk** - Are there post discharge services available for women who experienced discrimination and rape during their service?

**Tanya Thomas** - The agency has been hard pressed to have female veterans open up about such things, possibly because they have compartmentalized. However, several women veterans who are in the NYC space are acting as crusaders on this issue. Dr. Drell Howell is boots on the ground, a combat veteran who provides a safe space for women veterans. The VA has ramped up its support for women veterans. There is compensation for MST (military sexual trauma).

**Public Session - YouTube marker 0:33:02**

**Ahmed Tomal** - Expressed opposition to the chairperson limiting the number of speakers on the same topic during a public session. Citing Article 9, Section 7G of the by-laws to support his opposition. Requested that there be a public session in each committee meeting to conform with sub-section 2800H of the New York City Charter.

**Michelle Alleyne** - Requested whether the M 120 bus will be reinstated; requested improved lighting on 4th Street; requested a computer/business center in the neighborhood; requested support for non-military responders to 911 under the James Zadgroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Informed that the M-120 bus stop was restored and that the board would add the request for lighting into its capital expense request.

**Mary Oliveri** - Enquired whether the Queens 102 bus would be restored to its prior route.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - MTA requested a period of time to see how the new routes worked out. You can write letters and call elected officials and make complaints on the MTA website.

#### **Business Section - YouTube marker 0:41:31**

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Handed the gavel to Rod Townsend to run the board officer elections.

**Rod Townsend** - The following are the nominations put forth for board officers:

- **Evie Hantzopoulos - Chairperson**
- **Amy Hau - First Vice Chair**
- **Tom Ryan and Frank Fredericks - Second Vice Chair**
- **No nomination - Third Vice Chair**
- **Daniel Alberti - Executive Secretary**
- **Tyrone Gardner - Sergeant-at-Arms**

These are the nominations for officers. Are there any other nominations?

**Dino Panagoulis** - Nominated himself for Second Vice Chair

**Corrine Wood-Haynes** - Nominated herself for Third Vice Chair

**Amin Mehedi** - Asked if you could serve in an elected board position and chair a committee.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Clarified that according to the by-laws, you can serve in both positions unless you were board chair for three terms. In that case, a person is not able to serve as a committee chair for a year after s/he steps down.

**Rod Townsend** - Are there any other nominations? Are there any other questions? Seeing none, we will review the voting procedure. It is a matter of public record for whom you vote. The name of the board member is on the ballot; members of the public can ask to see the ballots and tabulations. The name of the candidates who were nominated ahead of the meeting will appear on the ballot. For candidates who were nominated from the floor, you will need to write their names in. You can find a list of all of the names on your board agenda. Please write clearly so that we can understand what you have written.

**Richard Khuzami** - Asked for the nominees for the contested seats provide a statement of why they are seeking the office.

**Rod Townsend** - All candidates will present themselves to the board for consideration once the ballots are distributed.

#### **Candidate Presentations - YouTube marker 0:46:50**

**Tyrone Gardner for the position of Sergeant-at-Arms** - Astoria Houses resident since 1974. Focuses on community and creating a village of support. Serves as CEO the non-profit organization called Mentors on the Move for Life which mentors youth in the community.

**Daniel Aliberti for the position of Executive Secretary** - Served as Executive Secretary for 2 years. As a person with a disability brings a unique perspective to decisions being made. 27% of the population are disabled. Having a disabled person serving as an elected officer is very valuable making sure that the minutes flow smoothly.

**Corrine Wood-Haynes for the position of Third Vice Chair** - Served in this position for the last 2 years and hopes people agree that her service was valuable. Brings an unbiased and equitable perspective that is indicative of what urban communities may or may not be. Shown a commitment to attend meetings, obtain information and utilize that information for the betterment of the community. .

**Frank Fredericks for the position of Second Vice Chair** - Served on executive committees of nonprofits and companies and will bring that knowledge to the position to assist with the governance and budget development for the community board. As Vice Chair of Public Safety he shows up on time, does his homework and follows through on every detail which is helpful when it comes to budget and compliance. His unique experience as a consultant to help governments create operating models to address acute citizen needs and overcome bureaucracy will be brought to the office to serve the board. Due to term limits, the board will lose the wisdom of senior members. His intention is to capture that wisdom of leadership to drive institutional learning to assist the next generation.

**Dino Panagoulis for the position of Second Vice Chair** - Built a career in public service - 28 years working in New York City public schools. Currently serves within the Division of Early Childhood working on Mayor Mamdani's initiative to bring universal childcare down to the infant level. Our team is tasked with creating 2,000 toddler seats for this upcoming school year and then ultimately within the next two years, 10,000 seats. We manage a \$2.2 billion budget so anything with data funding looking at where strength is, where weaknesses are, improvements can be made is where I excel and I would love to bring that forth to the community board

**Tom Ryan for the position of Second Vice Chair** - Is the number 3 senior member of this board, serving since 1990. Served on different committees and has been extremely active, serving as Sergeant-at-Arms for the last three terms before I came over to serve as Second Vice Chair. Certified Public Account in his own practice. Acts as a community activist for Woodside, Queens. Has plenty of institutional knowledge.

**Amy Hau for the position of First Vice Chair** - Has served on the board for a number of years but has been most active over the last couple of years serving as First Vice Chair working on the Capital and Expense Budget Committee which provided a wide-ranging understanding of what is occurring in neighborhoods and the needs of the community. The experience has been rewarding, and she wishes to continue in the position.

**Evie Hantzopoulos for the position of Chairperson** - Is honored to have served as Chair and would like to continue. Resides in Astoria for 27 years. Has done community organizing and non-profit work. As Chair the focus has been on board engagement and public engagement. Made a lot of progress in those areas. I have reinvigorated committees that weren't meeting; appointed new chairs and held a committee chair training; created a committee chair manual so that the knowledge is preserved for the future; revamped our capital and expense budget process; moved public session to the middle of the meeting to make it easier for the public to engage with the board; added public members to the committees. Is proud of the work the board has done together and wants to continue that work in the future.

**Rod Townsend** - Ensured that all members had a ballot and understood how to fill it out properly. Called on Adam Fisher-Cox and Quinella Williams to collect the ballots. Called on Marie Torniali and Christina Chaise to count the ballots in a separate room.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Called for a motion to adopt the December 2025 minutes.

**Motion to approve the December 2025 minutes - YouTube marker 1:01:57**

**Motion - Amin Mehedi      Second - Vanessa Jones-Hall**

**Discussion**

**Robert Feltault** - Requested that the minutes be corrected to reflect that he was excused.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Agreed to the change and reminded people to sign the sheet when they come in and inform the board office whenever you will be absent.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Chair's Report - YouTube marker 1:03:15**

**Evie Hantzopoulos** - Reminded the audience that applications for the board are open and available on the Borough President's website. Anyone can apply. Board members who were last reappointed in an even year must reapply for the position. The deadline to apply is February 13, 2026. The board office will send out emails to remind people who need to apply. Term limits will kick in in 2027 which is when the first class of board members will be term limited. The board office will provide all members with the date when they can no longer serve due to term limits.

**Committee Reports - YouTube marker 1:09:33**

**Business and Economic Development, Brian Martinez** - No Report

**Capital & Expense Budget, Amy Hau** - The District Manager will attend the hearing at Borough Hall to testify in support of the Board's requests.

**Communications & Public Outreach, Quinella Williams** - Meeting scheduled for January 28th

**Consumer Affairs, Kathleen Warnock** - The committee has no objection to anyone being granted a license or an extension in any of the categories.

**Motion to approve all applicants on the January Consumer Affairs list YouTube marker 1:12:12**

**Motion - Marie Torniali      Second - Jean Marie D'Alleva**

**No Discussion - Motion carries unanimously.**

**Education, Libraries & Youth, Amin Mehedi** - No meeting but inquired about expediting the extension of library hours included in the budget and reported that even though The Boys & Girls Club is closed PS 171 is providing help with homework and after school activities.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Recommended organizing a letter writing campaign to push for the library funding.

**Environmental/ Sanitation** - No Report

**Health and Human Services, Shahenaz Hamde - Meeting February 11, 2026.**

**Housing, Katie Ellman -** Reported that the focus of the committee has been the new Universal Affordability Preference that came out of the City of Yes. The developer teams do not have to present the projects but only have to serve notice to the board. Developers can build more square footage if they provide more affordability. Our Land Use Chair put together a fact sheet to understand the changes that will come about due to the passing of the City of Yes. There is a 45 day review period where the board can make comments about projects. The committee is working on producing Community Standards for adoption as a board.

**Land Use & Zoning, Co-Chair Elizabeth Erion -** Building on the Housing Committee report, the Land Use Committee will request that the Board office circulate the Fact Sheet the committee created. The next meeting will be February 4, 2026. The 32nd Street and the 12th Street and 33rd Avenue de-mappings which the board voted on were adopted by the City Planning Commission and are on their way to the City Council.

**Legal, Legislative & Parliamentary, Chair Rod Townsend -** The following are the newly elected officers of Community Board 1:

- **Chair Evie Hantzopoulos**
- **First Vice Chair Amy Hau**
- **Second Vice Chair Frank Fredricks**
- **Third Vice Chair Corrine Wood-Haynes**
- **Executive Secretary Daniel Aliberti**
- **Sergeant-at-Arms Tyrone Gardner**

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos -** Thanked everyone for their run for office and thanked Mr. Ryan for his service on the Executive Committee.

**Parks/Recreation/Cultural Chair Richard Khuzami -** The next meeting will be held on February 2, 2026.

**Public Safety, Chair Christopher Hanway -** The topic of the January 5, 2026 meeting was about antisemitism and anti Jewish hate in Astoria and Western Queens. Tensions in the middle east are manifesting themselves here in some ways that are not necessarily good for the community. It was a fruitful conversation and a bridge building exercise that will be repeated in March.

**Transportation, Athanasios Magoutas -** In response to a complaint received by the board office, the committee considered the negative impact of the COSTCO parking lot entrance and exit on Vernon Boulevard and Broadway. The committee is asking the board for support to send a letter to the DOT to find solutions to these problems. Requested a motion to approve the letter in the packet.

**YouTube marker 1:29:03**

**Motion - Kathleen Warnock      Second - Amy Hau**

#### **Discussion**

**Robert Feltault -** Recommended that the letter condense points 4 and 8. That recommendation was accepted.

**Stacey Eliuk -** Requested that the committee include daylighting on 31 Drive and Vernon Avenue. Making a left turn there is dangerous. That request was accepted.

**Richard Khuzami -** Commented that the lines of turning cars from Vernon Boulevard onto Broadway back up during rush hour. Requested more traffic controls for the protected bike lanes.

**Christina Chaise -** Requested more stop signs so pedestrians can walk to COSTCO, especially on 10th Avenue and Vernon Boulevard.

**Kathleen Warnock -** Requested that the letter highlight the public safety issues regarding the traffic patterns.

**Rod Townsend -** Requested that the committee invite board members to any DOT walk through regarding this issue.

**Amin Mehedi -** Stated that the committee should not eliminate turning lanes.

**Tom Ryan -** Suggested that the committee focus on street lights in future meetings.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**District Manager Report - Florence Koulouris** - Reminded the board members to check on elderly neighbors during the snow and cold days of winter. The board office made an early request to DOT to ensure that snow is removed from bike lanes. For those wishing to track the snow removal process in New York City, visit <https://plownyc.cityofnewyork.us/plownyc/> The board office received recent concerns from the community about various issues such as: the F&M train delays since the recent change in mid/late December. 21 Street potholes reported/repared. Astoria Track maintenance/repared. Q101 complaints MTA notified. MTA Maps at Mezzanine out of service reported to MTA. Count Down Clock out of Service on Platform 30 Avenue reported to MTA for repair. 41 Street pothole repairs scheduled. Overpass shoveling 49 Street reported to DSNY. 23 Avenue pothole scheduled for repair. 19 Avenue Taxi Traffic reported to the NYPD. Street light outage reported to DOT. 31 Avenue train track repair lights reported to MTA adjusted. 19 Avenue/ 20 Avenue Garbage dumping reported to DSNY for monitoring and tickets. Hoyt Avenue Trucks parked under RFK Bridge. 20 Avenue illegal operation of business from Truck NYPD notified/ inspections scheduled. 30 Avenue Large dumping/ Trash pile DSNY services. Abandon truck Berrian Blvd NYPD/ DSNY notified for service. 31 Street potholes reported to DOT/scheduled surface. CODE Night Club was reported to NYPD/parking FDNY-DOH Hookah and NYSLA Quality of Life Issues. Ditmars & 31 Street Homeless Outreach. GCP Homeless Outreach. 30 Avenue Street Light outage DOT report filed for repair. Please always call our office at 718 626-1021 with Agency issues and we will guide you on how to try to achieve resolutions. Board Members' calls are always welcome.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Commended the members of the Legal, Legislative & Parliamentary committee and board members for the work they have done on the by-laws over the past year. Informed the board that the by-laws changes they were about to receive has been vetted for compliance by the Borough President's office.

#### **By-Laws Amendments - YouTube marker 1:41:20**

**Legal, Legislative & Parliamentary, Chair Rod Townsend** - Explained that the target of the by-laws amendments is to bring the CB 1 Queens By-Laws into compliance with the City Charter and Roberts' Rules of Order.

17 amendments to the by-laws are as follows:

1. Add the words "if allowed by law" to clarify that remote voting must be allowed by law.
2. Changing "OML" to "Open Meetings Law" to clarify the abbreviation.
3. Add the words "50% plus one" to underline the meaning of majority.
4. Add the phrase "at the meeting" to clarify the timing of a runoff vote.
5. Add "at said meeting" also clarifies timing of runoff vote.
6. Add to the duties of the board chair "approve all leases and vendor contracts in accordance with city procedures and budget appropriations and refer to the full board at their discretion" to ensure that new Chairs understand their job responsibilities and to expand democracy.

**Christopher Hanway** - Asked for clarification on the approval of leases.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - The amendment refers to leases of equipment. Property leases are handled by the city.

**Dino Panagoulis** - Questioned whether this amendment conflicts with the City Charter because these powers are given to the District Manager. Also questioned why the amendment would give the Chair discretion to inform the board about leases or contracts.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Informed that the Chair ultimately answers to auditors even though oversight of contracts and leases isn't included in the by-laws. The amendment provides informed oversight and checks and balances.

**Dino Panagoulis** - Suggested that true checks and balances would include bringing those leases and contracts to the board to reduce the ability for impropriety.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Informed that the amendment doesn't mean that the Chair would be inputting the contract or lease information into the payment system. S/he would just be providing oversight for the purpose of being informed.

**Dino Panagoulis** - Asked if the Amendment would give the Chair the ability to deny leases and contracts.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Explained that the Chair could deny contracts and leases under the amendment.

**Corinne Wood-Haynes** - Suggested that a change be made to the amendment to bring the approval of contracts and leases to the entire board to uphold the spirit of democracy.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Expressed support for the entire board having oversight of contracts and vendors because that is what other boards do.

**Kathleen Warnock** - Expressed that bringing the contracts to the board could be time consuming and tedious.

**Richard Khuzami** - Suggested that the amendment establish a threshold that triggers the board approval of contracts and leases.

**Rod Townsend** - Requested that the package be approved as is and further amendments be discussed at a later date.

**Chris Hanaway** - Requested information about who is currently approving contracts and leases.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Informed that the District Manager currently approves contracts and leases.

**Katie Ellman** - Suggested the by-laws be amended to have either the Executive Board or the Budget Committee approve the leases and contracts.

**Amin Mehedi** - Requested that the District Manager inform the board about how the contracts and leases have been approved to date.

**Florence Koulouris, District Manager** - Informed that for the last 18 years the process has been that the City of New York puts out contract bids and informs the District Managers which vendors will be providing services. For example: Xerox, Minolta and Pitney Bowes are vendors who the City of New York engaged to provide services to the Community Boards. In June the District Managers close out the budget and every July District Managers open a new budget. The District Managers do engage vendors for smaller jobs. Those are done through Purchase Order. It is mandatory to first receive a quote. Once the job is complete the payment is made by Purchase Requisite. District Managers are fingerprinted and we undergo a background check. We are accountable to the Mayor's Office.

**Quinella Williams** - Asked the District Manager if she is supervised by the Chair.

**DM Florence Koulouris** - Responded that she works in concert with the Chair.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Explained that the Chair supervises the District Manager and signs the District Manager's timesheet.

**Quinella Williams** - Stated that she supports the amendment language as is since it is under the Chair's supervision.

#### **By-Laws Amendments Continued - Rod Townsend**

7. Adding the following to the area regarding public session: "During public session, the Chairperson may limit time allotted to the specific topic and the number of speakers on the same topic. Each speaker shall be limited to a number to a period of up to two minutes which can be extended or condensed at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair will record views of any member of the public who did not have time to speak for the record, aggregating and summarizing total views and adding any unspoken testimony to the minutes." The rationale for this allows the Chair to limit discussion on topics in public sessions where time is pressing, allowing for the collection of public viewpoints and adding unspoken testimony to the minutes.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Clarified that the amendment is allowed under Robert Rules of Order because people can attend the next board meeting to speak in public session. The amendment is for the purpose of time. The amendment was vetted through Borough Hall.

**Richard Khuzami** - Opposes the amendment because it could be abused.

**Dominic Stiller** - Suggested the amendment be amended to read, "During public session, the Chairperson may limit time allotted equally to both sides of a specific topic and the number of speakers on both sides of the same topic." I'm suggesting adding "equally to both sides" after the word "allotted".

**Dino Panagoulis** - Stated that members of the public should be given ample time to speak and reminded the board that direct testimony from a community member has caused the board to act on an important issue and ultimately resolve it for the community. Summarizing an issue does not carry the same impact as a member of the public presenting his/her issue on behalf of themselves or others. Time should not be a factor in whether or not the public gets a chance to speak. Everyone serves as a volunteer and if an individual board member has a problem with time, that member does not need to serve. If a member of the public is willing to spend their time waiting to testify they must be allowed to speak.

**Adam Fisher-Cox** - Stated that some of the conversation was outside the scope of the by-laws amendments. Supports the amendment as is.

**Kian Betancourt** - Asked a clarifying question about which other Community Boards limit public speech; wanted to know the precedent that caused this amendment to the by-laws.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Stated that she was unsure about whether other Community Boards had this statement in their by-laws but stated that it is contained in Robert's Rules of Order. The amendment was offered to ensure that the board hears all sides of an issue.

**Kian Betancourt** - Asked for an explanation on how the vote on the by-laws amendments would proceed after the discussion.

**Rod Townsend** - Explained that the vote is for the entire package with the changes that have been presented. For this vote, the package must be approved without revisions. However, revision can be made later without a year-long process.

**Kathleen Warnock** - Reiterated her support for the amendment and stressed that the Chair can curate the sentiment of the people in the room without having to allow every person to speak when there are more people than time available.

**Daniel Aliberti** - Supports voting on the amendment and modifying it at a later time.

**Michelle Amor** - Suggested that if time is limited, public sessions might be waived.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Public Session is required by the City Charter at our full monthly board meetings.

**Frank Fredericks** - Under "point of process" enquired whether friendly amendments could be accepted to the by-laws.

**Rod Townsend** - No

**Jean Marie D'Alleva** - Asked that if there is no deadline to change the by-laws why can't it be held over until the next meeting?

**Rod Townsend** - Replied that there will be a vote on the by-laws at this meeting because it is part of the process. If the package is voted down the whole package will have to be re-presented. The process is the Legal Committee will meet for 30 days, put together a new package to present at the February meeting and then a vote will be taken at the March meeting.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Reminded the members that the Legal Committee held meetings to discuss these amendments and all members were welcomed to attend. Then the committee came to a consensus at the last meeting.

#### **By-Laws Amendments Continued - Rod Townsend YouTube marker 2:18:28**

8. The amendment more succinctly defines the standing committee of the board and states that the board can create committees based on timely need.
9. The following are additions that are descriptions of functions of the Office Staff Committee, The rationale being to codify the functions and standardize annual evaluations:
  - a. 2D1 "in order to assist the Chairperson in their supervision of the District Manager, the Office Staff Committee shall be responsible for the development of annual revision of a statement of duties of the District Manager as well as the design of an annual evaluation process for the District Manager consistent with the New York City charter and all applicable laws and regulations.
  - b. 2D2 "in consultation with the District Manager the Office Staff Committee shall be responsible for the development and administration of an annual evaluation process for the employees supervised by the District Manager that is consistent with the New York City charter and all applicable laws and regulations.

**Stella Nicolaou** - Disagrees with the amendment 2D because it doesn't adhere to equity and inclusion or professional ethics. Expressed that the District Manager should be supervising the staff since they have the most interaction with staff and the most experience.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Informed that the amendment is supported by the City Charter and that the District Manager will still be supervising staff.

**Judy Trilivas** - Pointed out that many of the amendments pertain to the duties and functions of the District Manager and inquired as to whether it should be Borough Hall's responsibility to oversee District Managers as New York City employees. Also asked if there was an Human Resources Department that is responsible for District Managers.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Informed that Borough Hall wants the Community Boards to manage their own affairs. They provide guidance, but the Chairperson is the supervisor of the District Manager. Borough Hall wants Community Boards to do annual reviews. Other Community Boards have similar language in their by-laws.

**Adam Fisher-Cox** - Approves of the amendment to provide institutional knowledge to future board members.

**Dino Panagoulas** - Inquired as to where in the City Charter does it give the Community Board the power to conduct annual reviews of employees that are not under the supervision of board members their supervision.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Replied that the amendment only requires the committee to administer the process for annual reviews, not conduct the reviews themselves.

**Frank Fredericks** - Supports all the amendments and shared that traditionally, Executive Directors and District Managers answer to their boards. Applauded the amendments because it memorializes best practices so that future staff and board members understand what is necessary to function properly.

**Vanessa Jones-Hall** - Was unsure if the amendment with respect to evaluations of employees would create a situation where the Board would violate union laws if an evaluation resulted in the termination of an employee.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Explained that the amendment would only create a process for evaluating employees and reiterated that this language was approved by the legal department at Borough Hall and was contained in the by-laws of other Community Boards.

**Jean Marie D'Alleva** - Inquired why the board should be doing performance reviews when they haven't been done in the past.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Explained that is an adopted best practice to give performance reviews and further explained that by-laws and best practices are ever changing. The goal of this amendment is to achieve the best conditions possible.

**Quinella Williams** - Supported the amendment and informed the board that it is part of DCAS rules to receive an annual performance evaluation.

**Jaqueline Ibarra** - Agreed with the amendments stating that it is best practice to have performance reviews.

#### **By-Laws Amendments Continued - Rod Townsend YouTube marker 2:37:19**

The next amendments are regarding removal procedures of Board Officers.

10. 1A changes the necessity of a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to remove a board member to a majority vote.

11. 1D currently the removal would be referred to a committee that would then require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the entire board to remove an officer. We are changing that to "Upon report of said committee, a majority vote of the entire appointed board members during a regular monthly full board meeting is needed to approve the motion for removal."

Both of these are moving the removal threshold votes. The first one is a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to create a committee for removal. The second one is for the actual removal of an officer.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Pointed out that this language is in the City Charter. The board's current by-laws are out of compliance with the City Charter.

**Daniel Aliberti** - Asked for clarification that the amendment refers to removing board officers and not board members.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Explained that this amendment refers to Board Officers only. The by-laws already state that a majority vote is necessary to remove a board member. That is not being amended

#### **By-Laws Amendments Continued - Rod Townsend YouTube marker 2:41:10**

12. Regarding the removal of the District Manager - currently the threshold is  $\frac{2}{3}$ . We are also changing this to a majority vote, normalizing the vote threshold as we did for board officers.

13. Duties of the District Manager - currently it states: attends regular monthly and special board meetings and executive committee and standing committee meetings. We are proposing, "District Manager shall be present for all regular monthly meetings, special meetings and public hearings. The District Manager may be present at committee and working group meetings." This is lessening the burden of median attendance on the District Manager and removes a task not required by the City Charter.

14. District Manager duties continued: "During the months of July and August when board is not active, refers any committee related matters that require urgency or typically an advisory vote to the attention of the board chair and respective committee chairs to determine if a special session is needed." The rationale is to ensure communication going on throughout the inactive summer period.

15. Letter P "Compile monthly reports to the board summarizing constituent service calls in the previous month highlighting any issue generating outsized public interest." The rationale is to ensure that the board is aware of concerns raised by the community.

16. Construction proposed amendment - we propose to add: "The board chair must appoint a committee to review the by-laws for every year ending in a five or a zero." The rationale is to encourage regular by-laws review to keep them current.

17. Amendment to the By-laws - Currently, the threshold is a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to amend the by-laws. The amendment would require a majority vote so changes to the by-laws are in conjunction with normalized vote thresholds.

**Christopher Hanway** - Inquired whether the vote to amend the by-laws that is currently before the board required a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

**Rod Townsend** - Informed that the current by-law amendment requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. If the by-laws amendments are passed, future changes to by-laws will require a simple majority vote.

**Michelle Amor** - Inquired what the process would be to amend the by-laws if the proposed amendments passes versus if they fail.

**Rod Townsend** - Informed that if the package passes it will immediately go into effect. If there is a desire for further amendments beyond this package, the committee can meet to discuss the changes to those items in question; present the amended items at the following meeting then vote on those amendments at the next meeting. If the package is voted down, the committee would have to meet and discuss all 17 amendments rather than the few in question.

**Juliet Payabyab** - On attendance, how many absences are board members allowed before they are removed?

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - The Borough President makes those decisions.

**Christopher Hanway** - Call the question.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos** - Hearing no opposition to calling the question. Please repeat the motion.

### **Motion to Approve the Package of Amendments to the By-Laws as Presented - YouTube marker 2:51:18**

**Rod Townsend Second - Amin Mehedi**

**Dino Panagoulas** - Requested a roll call vote.

**Yays - 26 Nays - 16 Abstentions - 0**

**42 members present and voted. 2/3 vote required to pass. Motion fails.**

### **Old Business / New Business**

**Christina Chaise** - Requested that the Public Safety Committee do a workshop on how to handle ICE activity in the community.

**Jaqueline Ibarra** - Requested that the Health Committee look at the personal use of cannabis in public spaces to ascertain whether the New York City guidelines of open carry, open use and level of potency are being enforced.

**Richard Khuzami** - Announced that OANA will be hosting a candidate debate for District 36 at the Hellenic Cultural Center at Crescent Street and Newtown Avenue at 6:30. It will be live and virtual. A reminder that early voting starts on Saturday for the special election to replace former Assembly Member Mamdani.

**Kian Betancourt** - Reminded businesses to clean their sidewalks of ice and snow. Complaints can be lodged at 311 if the sidewalks are not cleared in a timely fashion.

**Jean Marie D'Alleva** - Commented that in really inclement weather where snow melts, then thaws and freezes before it dries, it is difficult to keep ice off sidewalks. Also reminded people that the 114th Precinct Council meeting would take place next Tuesday at 7pm in the same room where they are meeting. All are invited to attend.

### **Elected Official Reports**

**BP Donovan - Clare Collins:** Community Board applications are due on February 13th. If you're not a member and you want to apply as a new member you just have to do a 10-minute phone interview. After you send your application in, you get an email from me with a link to schedule your phone interview. The phone interview is the last step of the application process. If you are reapplying as a current member you don't have to do the interview.

**Assembly Raga – Kazi Maryam:** Assemblymember Raga attended a rally at 26 Federal Plaza on January 8th to support our undocumented community and to protest the increase in raids across our city. On January 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the office of Congresswoman Grace Meng will host mobile office hours at our district office to provide assistance with questions and concerns. Please call our office if you would like to schedule or stop by. On January 29th we will be hosting a legal clinic with Communities Resist from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. RSVP at (718) 651-3185. Starting January 31st through April 25th, our office is pleased to offer free tax preparation services every Saturday.

**Senator K Gonzalez - Kaylyn Munoz:** On Monday, January 12th, the New York State Senate passed a package of bills through the Committee on Elections chaired by Senator Kristen Gonzalez to protect election integrity by expanding accessibility, protecting voters and election workers, and confronting the growing threats of political violence and foreign influence. On January 15th, Senator Kristen Gonzalez chaired a public hearing of the Senate Standing Committee on Internet and Technology to review legislation regulating high-risk use of artificial intelligence in the public and in the private sector. Senator Gonzalez joined the New York Immigration Coalition, her elected colleagues, and immigration advocates on January 8th to call for the urgent need to pass legislation to protect our communities from federal overreach as violence from ICE increases across the country. Senator Kristen Gonzalez started her first day of session this year in Albany, standing with her colleagues and advocates to call for universal childcare. The next day, she joined Governor Hochul

and Mayor Mamdani at a press conference in Brooklyn to announce an historic investment to bring universal childcare to all New Yorkers. Tax season officially begins on January 26.

**CM Caban - Tessa Blum:** We'll be doing our usual legal clinics around immigration and housing in February. We held a legal clinic last week and the lawyer was able to help 10 different constituents. It's been a really popular clinic. We are also doing veteran services work in our office. We are having a veteran services officer from the Department of Veterans come once a month to our office to give services. The report that I presented last month will be out in the coming days and then I am happy to schedule again. I'll work with Florence and Evie to plan a full report back. We're working on a lot of great bills around delivery protection for delivery workers and helping people secure benefits with the Department of Social Services.

**Senator Stavisky- Judy Lee:** We will be holding our mobile office hours on Thursday from 12 to 2pm at Queens Public Library at North Hills which is located at 57-04 Marathon Parkway, New York. If you have any questions, reach out to our office. (718) 445-0004.

**Motion to adjourn - Vanessa Jones-Hall      Second - Amin Mehedi.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 9:39pm

# COMMUNITY BOARD 1, QUEENS

## ATTENDANCE FULL BOARD MEETING

Date: Jan 20, 26

**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	PABLO ZUNIGA	✓		

**Number of Board Members Present** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

**EXCUSED**
