



Donovan Richards  
Queens Borough President

# Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>

May 2, 2024

## **Queens Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes**

*This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom.*

**Board Members – Present:** Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, Ann Marie Baranowski, Karesia Batan, Nick Berkowitz, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Lisa Charles, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Diana Kichler, James Kim, Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Andie Olivares, Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Mai Tran, Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob,

## **Board Members – Absent:**

**Unexcused:** John Bahia

**Excused:** Kat Bloomfield, Badrun Khan, Oumaya Saab, Mary Torres

**Community Board 2 Staff:** Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado

## **Elected Officials/Representatives**

Honorable Kirsten Gonzalez, NY State Senator  
Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez  
Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng  
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris  
Mahfuzul Islam, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez  
Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga  
Brenda Quino, Representing NY State Assembly Member Juan Ardila  
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won  
Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

*Megan Yuan, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs (CAU) (PV)  
Javiar Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz*

**Department of City Planning**

*Katie Crawford, Winnie Shen, Hye-Kyung Yang*

**NYC Department of Transportation**

*Jason Banrey, Karissa Listrand, Joseph Patti*

**Sunnyside Community Services**

*Monica Guzman*

**Guests**

*Henry Smith, LIC Partnership*

**Public Comment**

*Corey Hannigan, Wendy Li*

**City of Yes for Housing Opportunity**

*Leo Guttman, Dan Miller, Monil Jhaveri, Tyler Baldwin,*

**Quality of Life No Parking Sign on Center Boulevard between 50<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

*Yolanda Jiminez, Ken Bandler, Marlene Dodes-Callahan, Stephanie Suarez, Beverly Brown, Fran Cimino, Stacey, Vicky Pedulaga, Rob Basch, Mohammed Attia, Mark Brandis*

*Note: Reference to the You Tube Video and the associate time-in-meeting stamps are offered here as a service to community members who wish to review the meeting. The video and Block Party transcript are not considered part of these minutes.*

Link to You Tube Video of this meeting <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>  
(Approximate elapsed time stamps provided in these minutes refer to this video)

Link to <https://blockparty.studio/Archive> where you can navigate to a transcript of this meeting.

**Time: (Approximate from YouTube Video)**

**0:00:54** Queens CB 2 Chairperson Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the CB 2 Meeting at Sunnyside Community Services.

**0:01:22 Pledge of Allegiance**

**0:01:46 Anatole Ashraf** welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided housekeeping rules. He requested everyone follow the WAIT Rule, (Why Am I Talking),

**0:02:46 Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez** provided the following update:

- Discussed legislation the Congresswoman has co-sponsored:
  - Affordable Housing and area Median Income Fairness Act.
  - Access and Mental Health Act
  - Press Release announcing the Department of Health and Human Services has awarded 2 million Grant to the Floating Hospital
- Discussed Community Project funding and put in a request for Sunnyside regarding Green Infrastructure, raingardens as well as infiltration basins and porous concrete panels.
- Blissville – The DEP is willing to do a walk through to identify future projects to adjust storm water impacts.
- The Congresswoman is requesting for the Thomson Avenue Safety Improvements to improve a bike connection between Queens Boulevard and Jackson Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Drive to help commuters into downtown Manhattan which will help with Congestion Pricing.
- Staff members of the Congresswoman's team attended the Long Island City and Hunters Point Community Coalition second community engagement workshop to see the draft vision plan for resiliency.
- Q & A

**0:05:55 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng** provided the following update:

- Congresswoman Meng's Office is seeking a local Veteran, Gold Star family member or active-duty spouse for a two-year paid position at their northeast Queens office. If anyone is interested, [ny06casework@mail.house.gov](mailto:ny06casework@mail.house.gov).
- Their office is accepting submissions for the Congressional Art Competition which is open to high school students in the district. Submission would be no later than May 6, 2024.
- On May 3, 2024, their office will be hosting a Small Business Legal Desk in their office from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Announced there will be a job fair tomorrow from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Queens College, rsvp is required.

- For more information, visit their website at or call their office.
- Q & A

**0:08:15 Honorable Krsiten Gonzalez, New York State Senator** provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the budget process that was just completed.
- Announced the executive budget of about 237 billion dollars.
- Announced she has been up in Albany for the legislative session.
- Discussed the issue of housing and that it became the biggest topic in this year's budget.
- Discussed the 485x a new program for 421 accompanied by a bill called Good Cause Eviction.
- Senator Gonzalez encouraged all if they have any questions about the big housing package that was passed and how it affects your specific unit, your building, or any of your properties to reach out to her office.
- Discussed green infrastructure and flooding.
- Reported our schools should see an increase in funding.
- Discussed Tier Six Reform.
- Q & A

**0:26:34 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris** provided the following update:

- Comments were inaudible.
- Their office is located at 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard and are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Q & A

**0:26:41 Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga** provided the following update:

- Announced the budget has been passed.
- Announced some of the other things included in this year's budget, \$80 Million for Mitchell Lama
- Discussed the Basement Pilot program. CB 2 will be the only community board in all of Queens that will begin in the pilot program.
- Announced on May 7, 2024, their office will be hosting NHS of Queens who will be doing intake between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm
- Announced on May 11, 2024, between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm they will be celebrating AAPI heritage month at Elmhurst Hospital.

**0:28:09 Brenda Quinio, Representing NY State Assembly Member Juan Ardila** provided the following update:

- Announced the celebration of Earth Day last week.
- In collaboration with the 108<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, their office organized a graffiti clean-up in Sunnyside and Woodside.
- If anyone has any areas in mind that could benefit from their clean up efforts to contact their office.
- Announced that Sammy's Law has passed in the budget.
- Announced the ADU Pilot Program was also passed in the budget and will start here with CB 2.
- Announced the assembly member is committed to the cause of tenant protection and discussed Good Cause Eviction.
- If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact their office at (718) 784-3194.
- Q & A

**0:30:27** Farah Salam, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won provided the following update:

- Announced the Rat Academy was rescheduled for May 21, 2024, start time will be 5:00 pm. Anyone interested in registering can email their office at [district26@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district26@council.nyc.gov).
- Announced Council Member Won stood with Big Resue on Earth Day to call on Parks to advocate for the Big Resue site at Queensbridge so they can continue doing their composting work.
- Announced Monday, May 6, 2024, the second town hall for the Heart of the District Land Use Project vision for Northern Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue will take place at 6:00 pm at PS11.
- Announced the LIC Neighborhood Plan also known as One LIC has two upcoming Focus Area Meetings:
  - May 16, 2024, on Zoom from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
  - May 20, 2024, in person from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at MoMA PS1.
- If anyone needs help in registering to reach out to their office.
- Provided an update on Participatory Budgeting.
- Announced the Executive Budget Hearings will be going on throughout the month of May.
- Q & A

**0:34:21** Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Wished all a Happy Mother's Day.
- May 22, 2024, at 10:00 am Memorial Day Observance Ceremony in the Memorial Garden at Queens Borough Hall.

- May 29, 2024, Older Adult Appreciation Luncheon at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall.
- May 30, 2024, their office will be hosting the AAPI Heritage Month Celebration at Queens Borough Hall. At 6:00 pm

**0:35:56 Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz** provided the following update:

- Announced the DA is working on cases that range in topics from squatting to illegal bribes.
- Announced there has been an indictment in the shooting of Detective Diller.

**0:36:45 Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services**

- Announced SCS provides programs for youth, immigrants and for those that are homebound.
- Discussed the SCS space in LIC on Center Blvd.
- Encouraged all to visit their website at: [www.scsny.org](http://www.scsny.org)
- Announced they provide caregiver support for families caring loved ones with Alzheimer's. They also have a workforce development program for those that want to become home health aides.
- Announced Health Fair on May 11, 2024, in Elmhurst at their Beacon Community Center
- May 17, 2024, Volunteer to clean up the area.

**0:38:27 Henry Smith, Long Island City Partnership**

- Reminded everyone about LIC Springs taking place on May 18, 2024, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Vernon Blvd. For more information visit: [info@licpartnership.org](mailto:info@licpartnership.org)

**0:39:39 General Public Comment**

**0:39:55 Corey Hannigan** spoke about the following:

Thanked DOT for greenlighting the Queensboro Bridge south outer roadway and requested it be expedited.

Thanked the DCP for the City of Yes Proposal.

Discussed the Center Boulevard parking matter.

**0:41:47 Judge Wendy Li**, Judge of Civil Court of New York, thanked all the volunteers for their work.

**0:43:07 DOT Street Improvement Project – Queens South Outer Roadway**

**0:43:12 Jason Banrey, NYC Department of Transportation** introduced his colleagues and provided a power point presentation on the DOT Street Improvement Project – Queens South Outer Roadway:

✓ Karissa Listrand

✓ Joseph Patti

**1:06:25 City of Yes for Housing Opportunity**

**1:07:52 Katy Crawford, Department of City Planning** introduced her colleague Winnie Shen and provided a power point presentation for the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity.

**2:00:00 Public Comment**

The following individuals spoke in support of the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity:

*Leo Guttman*

*Dan Miller*

*Tyler Baldwin*

**2:06:15 Discussion on a Request for Quality of Life/No Parking Sign from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am on Center Boulevard between 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**2:06:40 Public Comment**

The following individuals spoke in favor of a quality of life/no parking sign on Center Boulevard between 48<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

*Yolanda Jimenez*

*Bob Basch*

*Kenneth Bandler*

*Marlene Dodes*

*Stephanie Suarez*

*Beverly Brown*

*Fran Cimino*

*Stacey Chen*

*Vicky Papaduca*

*Laura Meyers*

*Chris Demon*

**2:44:48** Mohammed Attia discussed the street vendor project and stated the issue and hears the concerns and believes they can be fixed only by talking to the individuals who are in charge. There should be educational mechanisms and enforcement mechanisms in place and does not believe the proposal will help.

**2:54:10** Mark Brandis spoke in opposition to the quality of life/no parking signage.

**2:57:24 Transition to Board Business**

**2:05:25 Attendance**

- Board Members Present: 44
- Board Members Absent: 6
- Present Virtual: 0    Excused: 4
- Quorum: Yes

**3:00:26 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf)** provided the following update:

- New members should have received their committee assignments already and if they haven't, he will follow up.
- Members should be receiving their check-in survey.
- Tech Committee is working on an official policy document.

**3:01:34 Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager** provided the following update:

- For all new Board Members, please see the EEO Policy. The document must be signed and sent to the CB 2 office as we must be compliant with the City of New York.
- Attended the Borough Presidents Community Board Swearing in Ceremony at 5:30 pm at Borough Hall on Monday, April 15, 2024.
- Remember if you have community complaints, quality of life issues please submit to the CB 2 board office for follow up send CB2 an email.
- CB2 has two outdoor dining applications which will be vetted at City Services on May 8, 2024.
  - CYCLO 5-51 47<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, LIC
  - TAVERN CORP – LOCATED AT 27-21 JACKSON AVENUE
- CB 2 had approximately 21 complaints for the month of April. The top complaints were Department of Transportation, Signage, signals, potholes, DOS and PD
- Sohncke Square Park – Most of the construction is completed however it is delayed due to Con Edison certification needed at the location.
- Noonan dog run is now open.
- Blissville flagpole is scheduled to begin fall 2024.
- Woodside Memorial will be getting bulletin boards and parks and will rehab them.
- Virgilo playground will have a "kids in motion" staffer.
- DDC projects. Wrapping up trench restoration on 70<sup>th</sup> street south of the BQE
  - Watermain installation project at 29<sup>th</sup> street between 47<sup>th</sup> avenue and hunters point avenue.
- Thank you to Sunnyside Shines BID Dirk McCall and Sunnyside Community Services for the honor of receiving the Lilly Gavin award.
- Provided an update about the newly planted tree in Sabba Park in honor of Lily Gavin.
- Thanked all the Veterans for their service to the country on this Memorial Day.
- Happy Mother's Day to all who celebrate.



**3:07:15 Motion** to approve the April 4, 2024, CB 2 Meeting Minutes.

(**Motion** made by Anatole Ashraf and seconded by Nick Berkowitz) to approve the April 4, 2024, CB2 Meeting Minutes with the friendly amendment to mark Lisa Charles present virtual.

**Motion carried:** All were in favor of the motion with; None (0) opposed and one (1) abstention.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/meeting-agendas-minutes.page>

**3:07:49 Department of City Planning (Katy Crawford)**, provided the following update:

- Announced City of Yes for Housing Opportunity information is on their website at [www.nyc.gov/yeshousingopportunity](http://www.nyc.gov/yeshousingopportunity).
- The email is: [housingopportunity@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:housingopportunity@planning.nyc.gov).

**3:08:52 Quality of Life/No Parking Sign from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am on Center boulevard between 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

(**Motion** made by Anatole Ashraf made a motion and seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey) to ask for a No Standing Sign between the hours of 12:00 am and 7:00 am.

**Motion carried:** All were in favor of the motion with; none (1) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

**3:17:02 (Motion** by Nick Berkowitz and seconded by Lisa Deller) to table and refer this to the Transportation Committee and the Small Business Committee.

**Motion carried:** All were in favor of the motion to table with (26) twenty-six in favor of the motion to table.

**3:22:17 (Motion** by Laura Shepard and seconded by Anatole Ashraf) to ask the relevant city agencies to identify 20 spaces in or adjacent to the park for vending that can be wired into the grid.

**3:22:57 (Motion** was made to table and the motion did not pass).

**3:25:26 (Motion** by Laura Shepard and seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey) to ask the Parks Department and the Department of Transportation to identify the feasibility of allocating 20 legal spaces for food vendors that can be wired into the grid.

**3:26:45 (Morry Galoney)** made a friendly amendment that we include the word feasibility study.

**Motion carried:** The vote was 28 (twenty-eight) in favor of the motion; (15) opposed and 1 (one) abstention.

**3:43:40** Anatole Ashraf made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

X Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB2

X Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2

X Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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