



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

Revised

January 9, 2025

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom

Community Board 2 Board Members – Present

Amparo Abel-Bey (PV) Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Ann Marie Baranowski, Karesia Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz (PV), Kat Bloomfield (PV), Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Lisa Charles, Tannia Chavez (PV), Stephen Cooper (PV, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire (PV), Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Camille Gray (PV), Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Lelin Kandel, Diana Kichler, James Kim, Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas (PV), Eric Narburgh, Andie Olivares (PV), Zeeshan Ott, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel (PV), Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob (PV)

Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent

Unexcused:

Benjamin Lucas, Akello Thomas

Excused:

Osman Chowdhury, Warren Davis, Christine Hunter, Badrun Khan, Sheila Lewandowski, Oumaya Saab, Mary Torres

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

Elected Officials/Representatives

Tiffany Echevaria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez

Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng

Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris

Rubin Flores, Representing NYS Senator Kristen Gonzalez

*Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga
Farah Salam, Representing NYC Council Member Julie Won
Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards*

Department of Environmental Protection

Queens Borough Commissioner Alfonso Lopez

Department of City Planning

Katherine Crawford, Hye-Kyung Yang, Lara Merida

Guests

Public Comment

Charlton D'Souza, Passengers United, David Moog, Bernice Moog, Charlene Ogbeni, Jolie Cuminale

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)

0:07:11 Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided housekeeping rules and reminded everyone their vote is their opinion. He requested everyone follow the WAIT Rule, (Why Am I Talking).

0:07:23 Pledge of Allegiance

0:08:57 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng provided the following update:

- Announced Weekend Office Hours will take place on:
 - January 11, 2025 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Forest Hills Office
 - February 9, 2025 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Flushing Office

- Announced their office will be January 17, 2025, will have an intake day with Woodside on the Move to help immigrants to help address their concerns. Will send out flyers.

0:11:16 Ruben Flores, Representing Senator Kristen Gonzalez provided the following update:

- Announced they are having a Pet Adoption event at the Chocolate Factory Theatre on 38-33 24th Street. Invited all to attend.
- Announced Mobile Office Hours will be held on January 27, 2025, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Community Houses.
- Q & A

0:06:17 Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris provided the following update:

- Announced the Senator has gone back to Albany for the start of the session.
- Reminded everyone if there is any other legislation that they want the Senator to push for while he is there, contact their office. If anyone plans to be in Albany and would like to have a sit down with the Senator to contact her.
- Announced their office is trying to organize a real ID session. Starting in May if you want to enter a federal building or if you wish to travel domestically, you will need a real ID.
- Their office is located at 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard.
- Q & A

0:23:24 Tiffany Echevaria, Representing Congresswoman Velazquez provided the following update:

- Announced the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 was signed into law.
- Congresswoman Velazquez secured the authorization of \$125 million in water infrastructure improvements in climate and resiliency comprehension, flood protection for both Queens and Brooklyn as she has a large district.
- Have been in communication with the DEP Commissioner. They are discussing days for a tour of Blissville and are looking to have it the week of January 21, 2025.
- Reported their office has been receiving helicopter complaints and announced the Congresswoman has consistently opposed non-essential helicopters in her district and is co-sponsoring legislation that aims to ban non-essential helicopters.
- Q & A

0:26:13 Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update.

- Announced the Assembly Member is back in session and is excited to continue to fight for bills and budget items that promote government transparency, promote education and medical debt alleviation.

- Thanked all those who participated in their sock and toy drive and announced their office partnered with the nonprofit the Solution to Hunger and thanked all those individuals who donated.
- Announced the Assembly Member is introducing a bill that would allow students to use their Excelsior Scholarship to apply to not only tuition but also to room, board and other education costs.
- Announced the Assembly Member introduced a bill last year called the FOIL Act to give a five-day deadline to agencies to respond.
- The Assembly Member is also championing for the Mitchell Lama funding.
- Announced their office will be hosting a legal clinic with Core Communities Resist at their district office on January 22, 2025, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- If anyone has any items, please feel free to stop by their office at 55-19 69th Street.
- Q & A

0:29:20 Clare Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Announced Community Board applications are open now and will close on February 14, 2025. If you are a current board member up for reappointment, submit your application at www.queensb.nyc.gov.
- If someone would like a paper application, it is available upon request by reaching out to Michael Carlier at mcarlier@queensbp.gov.
- All information is on their website.
- Once applications are submitted, they will conduct an interview and reach out to schedule a phone interview.
- Announced on January 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm they will be hosting a virtual parent advisory board meeting, and all parents and caregivers are welcome.
- Announced on January 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm they will be hosting their Haitian Independence Day celebration at Borough Hall.
- Announced on January 30, 2025, at 6:00 pm they will be hosting a Lunar New Year Celebration at Borough Hall.
- RSVP to these events at www.queensbp.nyc.gov
- Q & A

0:31:27 Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won provided the following update:

- Reported they Council Member's Office distributed over 550 toys to people in the community.
- Announced they are hosting a housing lawyer for free at their office every other week through Communities Resist. This will be held on Mondays from 1:00 pm through 4 pm. Anyone interested may contact their office for more information.
- On January 27, 2025, Council Member Won, Council Member Ung and Council Member Krishnan and Council Member Zhuang will be hosting a City Hall Lunar New Year Event. Anyone interested in attending may reach out to their office.

- Budget discretionary applications have opened up for nonprofits and their office is encouraging non-profits to register and apply for funding. Once they apply, they ask that all non-profits complete a supplemental form and submit it to their office. The Council Member's team will follow up with those organizations.
- Announced participatory budgeting is continuing and their delegates are hard at work turning ideas into the projects to be voted on.
- Anyone interested in being a delegate, please contact the Council Member's office.
- Q & A

0:39:10 Henry Smith, Long Island City Partnership provided the following update:

- Announced that the BID has officially started their service January 2, 2025, in the expanded area.
- Reported their team is out there cleaning up the litter in the different areas.
- Announced the Lunar New Year Business Promotion and they are highlighting that LIC is the fastest growing Asian population around the country. It will start January 24, 2025, and end at the end of February and look out for all the different promotions and events going on in LIC in the upcoming months.

0:41:49 Queens Borough Commissioner Alfonso Lopez, Department of Environmental Protection provided the following update:

- Announced he wants to be a resource and is looking to increase awareness to the agency of everyone is experiencing.
- Provided an overview of his background.
- Announced he is touring the borough.
- Announced if anyone has a concern to report it to 311. They may also email it to www.queensdep@dep.nyc.gov.
- Has conducted a walk through, through Blissville and plans to do a walk through with CB 2.
- Q & A

1:15:35 Public Comment

1:15:47 Charlton D'Souza, Passengers United spoke about the following:

- A 501c3 non-profit organization
- They are actively engaged in the Queens Bus Redesign
- Constituents and passengers have reached out with concerns about the Q101 which runs through the edges of the district and that it will not be going to Manhattan anymore.
- Announced they were able to fight and keep the Q32 and the Q60.
- Have received concerns from residents in Hunters Point. They want a bus that runs from Astoria down 21st Street, Hunters Point and then goes into the Queens Midtown Tunnel.
- They want to see a bus route for this community and also Night Owl Bus Service.

- Encouraged all to visit the website at www.passengersunited.org
- Q & A

1:27:23 David Moog spoke about a notice he received from a solicitor that he needs to have his parapet inspected annually. Feels this requirement is burdensome and is seeking to have the law amended.

1:32:19 Jolie Cuminale discussed her concerns regarding non-essential helicopter traffic at all hours of the day and night including weekends in Sunnyside and is seeking assistance.

1:41:34 Transition to Board Business:

1:41:37 Attendance (Ryan Smith)

Board Members Present:	29	Board Members Absent:	2
Present Virtual: 11	Excused: 8	Quorum:	Yes

1:44:48 Approval of the CB 2 Board Meeting Minutes (November and December 2024)

Anatole Ashraf made a motion to approve the minutes, and they were seconded by Morry Galonoy. All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and one abstention

1:46:04 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf) provided the following update:

- Wished all Happy New Year.
- Thanked all for the privilege to serve as Chair.
- Announced the newly elected executive committee and requested a round of applause for Thomas Mituzas for outgoing Second Vice Chair.
- Priorities for this year in addition to the values of inclusivity, transparency, accessibility and visibility for the board both for board members and community members some specific priorities are starting to create reference materials for the preparation of reference materials for the Executive Committee leadership of 2027 and for the board in general at that time. There will be historic turnover coming in 2 years.
- Onboarding document for recent and new members.
- Improving posting meeting recordings on various places.
- Increasing the number of survey respondents to our budget priority survey in the summer and plugging away at accessibility including tools and resources.
- Announced Community Board applications are now open and for public members they are also encouraged to apply for board membership.
- Announced the names of those who need to reapply (Anatole Ashraf, Ann Marie Baronowski, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Carolos Castell Croke, Warren Davis, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Mohammad Hossen, Christine

Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan, Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Eric Narburgh, Zeeshan Ott, Oumaya Saab, Laura Shepard, Mary Torres, Leticia Vasquez)

- Announced the deadline is February 14, 2025.
- Thanked the new members of the Executive Committee

1:50:13 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert) provided the following update:

- Wished all a Happy New Year.
- Requested we observe a moment of silence in honor of former President Jimmy Carter.
- Keep the people in California in our prayers and that fires end.
- Announced that after a long search we have a new employee, Rafael. Thanked the search committee, including Anatole Ashraf, Thomas Mituzas and Prameet Kumar.
- CB 2 had approximately 23 complaints since our last Board meeting
 - The top complaints were:
 - DOS
 - DOT /PD– ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES DOS – ILLEGAL DUMPING/GARBAGE, VENDOR ISSUES
 - DEP – PONDING WATER
- Spoke with PD about all the illegal parking on sidewalks. Please report to 311 and send it to the office.
- Parks - Mulchfest end January 12th. Please see nyc.gov/mulchfest or call 311.
- The office will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025, Martin Luther King, Jr. as it is an official city holiday.

1:54:36 Department of City Planning (Katie Crawford) provided the following update:

- Announced there will be Public Workshops on the LIC Public Sites on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at PS 78. Registration is not required but encouraged.
- Q & A

2:30:53 Reilly Owens, Transportation Committee provided the following update:

- Reported the committee discussed issues with illegal parking in the district and the collision shops that use the entire block for their derelict cars.
- Reported the committee spoke with someone who runs a company in LIC who is trying to run a business but there are cars that just exist on the street without ever moving.
- Thanked Debbie for working with PD on this issue. Keep 311 complaints coming into the office
- Announced he attended an MTA briefing about the #7 Line and work being done at the stations. The 61st Street express track is set to complete quarter two of this year and once that express track is completed, they will start work at 52nd, 61st and 69th Street stations on the Manhattan bound side which will start quarter 2, 2025 and will finish quarter 4, 2025.
- Reported he spoke with MTA about the 52nd Street Station. They do not have specific plans about what they are going to do, but they will do everything that is necessary like

replace the stairways, get rid of the pigeons with Humane means and make it nice as far as overall completion of all those projects, quarter 4, 2026.

- There will be service interruptions in which we cannot use those stations, and we will have to go backward to go forwards. Does not have specific dates when this will happen.
- Discussed the south outer roadway, which is still set to open at the end of this quarter, probably any time between now and the end of this quarter. We will continue to press DOT on that.
- Bus Network Redesign the date of the briefing for Community Board 2 is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 6:30 pm. There is a boroughwide meeting to talk about the entire borough on January 10, 2025, from 1 to 2 pm.
- Discussed Council Member Julie Won's report on the Heart of the District survey about Northern Boulevard between Northern Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue and the future plans for them. He encouraged everyone to read the material.

2:39:36 Danielle Brecker, City Services & Public Safety Committee provided the following update:

- Announced we are going to get help from our two state senators who will put us in touch with OCM and figure out what happens to the Cannabis applications that we approve or don't approve once they go to OCM.
- Reported she designed a map of cannabis locations.
- Reported the committee approved a few liquor licenses.

2:41:07 Lauren Springer, Health and Human Services & Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee provided the following update:

- Reported that this was a joint committee meeting with the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee.
- There was a presentation from Elmhurst Hospital on Suicide Prevention and Youth Program.
- Reported the committee held a discussion with Smiling Hogshead Ranch which came to discuss the issue of the migrant situation, and the eviction notice that they received. There were businesses owners present. The discussion was to try to reach some resolution concerning this matter.
- The next meeting will take place on January 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm and will be virtual.

2:42:53: Laura Shepard, Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee provided the following update:

- Announced the eviction notice for Smiling Hogs Head Ranch was rescinded.
- Reported the Little Manila Park Initiative received its permit to create a park and steward the green spaces along the BQE.
- Announced there is going to be a clean-up and sign installation on Martin Luther King Day on January 20, 2025, at 10:00 am.

- The next Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting will be held on January 23, 2025, at 6:30 pm.
- We are asking the Parks Department to attend to discuss the issues at Murray Playground.

2:44:05 Karesia Batan, Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee provided the following update:

- Reported the Arts and Culture Committee was a joint meeting with Small Business & Local Economy Committee meeting.
- They were able to get some of the muralists that have been doing work in the district to talk about the processes.
- There is a brand-new mural at Sanger Hall that is honoring the Coventry which was originally on Queens Boulevard. They spoke about how they work within their general contracting business to secure public art projects. We want to try to replicate that type of synergy between small businesses and artists in our district.
- On the other side of the boulevard, they came and spoke to us about how they were able to get the original artists to come back and raise some funds from the community to get that mural redone so its more permanent.
- Starting an initiative to see if there are any owners who are interested in having murals on their roll down gates.
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday.
- The Lawyer's Alliance will be attending to speak about how nonprofits are going to be impacted by the incoming Federal compliance changes that are coming as well as a lot of discretionary funding and a lot of grants to announce.

2:45:58 Morry Galonoy, Small Business and Local Economy provided the following update:

- Provided an update on [fincen.gov](https://www.fincen.gov) for small businesses that have to register. This is for people that are LLC's or other certain types of businesses. More information is on the website at www.fincen.gov look for the BOI Beneficial Ownership Registration Section.
- The next Small Business Committee Meeting will take place in February, the last Tuesday of the month.

2:47:44 Patrick Martinez, Technology & Engagement Committee provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the coat drive. Thanked Somnath Ghimire for his help.
- Thanked Tannia Chavez.
- Drop off site is at located at the GPK Foundation of America at 41-66 72nd Street, Suite 1A, first floor, from 12 to 4pm.
- Thanked everyone and announced we have collected more than 100 coats.

1:50:50 Kat Bloomfield, Treasurer announced that it would be great if all committee chairs could write up all the wins for the last year to see what the committee so that when people join

committees, they can see what each committee is doing and has done. In addition to the official description of what the committee does.

2:51:29 Karesia Batan discussed making a standing list of open cases.

Anatole Ashraf made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

X Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB 2

X Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2

X Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

01092025CB2MM