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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

April 13, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: CB2 HHSE Letter of Support – Freestanding Birth Center in Queens

As the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Queens Community Board 2 (CB2) Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Taskforce Committee, we write to express our strong support for the development of the first freestanding birth center in Queens, led by Birth By Queens Foundation Inc, with an anticipated opening date of December 2027.

Queens is one of the most diverse counties in the nation, yet families—particularly Black, Brown, immigrant, and low-income parents—continue to experience inequitable access to culturally responsive, community-based maternal and infant health services. A freestanding birth center will help address these gaps by providing evidence-based, person-centered care that improves birth outcomes while reducing unnecessary medical interventions.

The proposed birth center will serve as a critical resource for new and growing families by offering comprehensive prenatal, labor and birth, postpartum, breastfeeding, and parenting support, while strengthening continuity of care and community trust. This project aligns with our shared goals of advancing health equity, reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, and supporting families from pregnancy through early parenting.

We recognize the importance of this initiative as part of the broader maternal health infrastructure in Queens and believe it represents a meaningful investment in the health and well-being of our communities. I fully support the inclusion of this letter in community needs assessments and, should it be required, its application for a Certificate of Need.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving maternal and infant health outcomes in Queens. We look forward to seeing this vital resource come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Lauren Springer
CB2 HHSE Chair

Amparo Abel-Bey
CB2 HHSE Vice Chair



Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson, CB2

CC: Hon. Grace Meng, US Congress
Hon. Nydia Velazquez, US Congress
Hon. Michael Gianaris, NYS Senate
Hon. Kristen Gonzalez, NYS Senate
Hon. Steven Raga, NYS Assembly
Hon. Claire Valdez, NYS Assembly
Hon. Julie Won, NYC Council
Hon. Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member
Hon. Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President