



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

December 4, 2025
Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes
This meeting was held in person and teleconference on Zoom

Community Board 2 Board Members – Present

Amparo Abel-Bey (PV), Nellie Afshar, Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia (PV), Karesia Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Danielle Brecker, Stephen Cooper (PV), Carlos Castell Croke, Osman Chowdhury, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller (PV), Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Corey Hannigan, Mohammad Hossen, Bradford Leibin, Sheila Lewandowski, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Eric Narburgh, Randy Plemel (PV), Pia Rahman (PV), Oumaya Saab (PV), Aylssa Sawicki (PV), Ryan Smith (PV), Lauren Springer, Amaurys Valdez, Alaina Van Slooten, Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob

Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent

Unexcused:

Lisa Charles, Chhemang Lama, Andie Olivares, Phugelzen Sherpa, Akello Thomas

Excused:

Evelyn Chango, Tannia Chavez, Morry Galonoy, Christine Hunter, James Kim, Prameet Kumar, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Norberto Saldana

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado, Community Coordinator,

Elected Officials

Tiffany Eschevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
Adam Lee, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Karen Sheu, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Carlos Hernandez, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga
Simon, Tanguey, Representing NY State Assembly Member Claire Valdez
Laura Shepard, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Nerrissa Martinez, Representing Queens District Attorney Melina Katz

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

Department of City Planning

Katie Crawford

MTA

Ruby Benitez

Guests

Lillian Moralez, Long Island City YMCA, Melanie Marin Long Island City YMCA

Public Comment

Marco Griego, Woodside on the Move

Kenny Medrano

Shynelle Blake

Orlando Bispo

Leticia Vasquez

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 You Tube Video)

0:03:26 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).

0:07:33 Pledge of Allegiance

0:08:00 Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez provided the following update:

- Announced the federal government finished with the shutdown and the government reopened on November 12, 2025.
- Although the appropriations bill passed on November 12, 2025. The Congresswoman voted no against the Big Beautiful Bill to protect healthcare affordability in the district.
- Announced their office will continue to update the Board on what is to come with the new policies.
- Their office is aware of the detainment of a 6-year-old child and their father at 26 Federal Plaza last week on November 26, 2025. Their office has been in touch with the

attorneys and the appropriate city and federal agencies. They can confirm that the child is in custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. They will continue communicating with the attorneys and will provide whatever support the child may need. There are legal limits on what they can be sharing publicly. They are continuing to support the child and the father and press federal agencies for compassion and humanitarian parole.

- Provided an update on current students that are applying to college or are redoing their FAFSA'S. The FAFSA form is now available to students to apply for the 2026-2027 academic year. The form is open from September all the way to June of 2027.
- Their office has a list of congressional internships and fellowships. If anyone is interested, please reach out to their office at (718) 340-6244.

Sheila Lewandowski thanked Congresswoman Velazquez for her many years of service.

0:11:47 Adam Lee, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng provided the following update:

- Announced an e-waste recycling vent on December 7, 2025, that is in collaboration with Council Member Linda Lee and Senator John Liu and Senator Toby Stavisky.
- Announced a Veteran Intake Day on December 9, 2025, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm which will take place at St. Sebastians Post-870 Catholic War Veterans. RSVP at (718) 358-6364.
- Announced weekend office hours will take place on Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Congresswoman Meng voted to release the Epstein files.
- Congresswoman Meng voted against the government spending bill that does not address rising healthcare costs for the thousands of families in Queens who rely on affordable healthcare. Representative Meng will continue to fight to pass bipartisan legislation that protects healthcare for hardworking families.
- Congresswoman Meng has introduced the Quiet Communities Act of 2025 and introduced a bill to reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen the agency's role in combating noise pollution including aircraft noise.
- As a founding member of the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus, Representative Meng is committed to mitigating severe noise pollution in Queens.
- Congresswoman Meng and Representative Morelle introduced the Hunger Clearinghouse Enhancement Act. This bill was introduced for the US Department of Agriculture Hunger Hotline to improve access to food assistance, nutrition and social service information for families in need.

0:14:56 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris provided the following update:

- Announced on November 26, 2025, the Senator along with City Meals on Wheels, had the opportunity to give out 200 meals in total to seniors. 100 of them went to residents in Maspeth, and 100 of them went to families, specifically seniors who were

homebound in Woodside houses, and made sure seniors were able to have a nice Thanksgiving.

- Their office has continued to work with Con Ed to see if they could include in their call center system to inform residents in the five boroughs to make sure that they are moving and their accounts are not being hacked and opened at another address. Their office is working hard with the New York City Commission on Fraud, and they are also working with other elected officials to see if they can make this happen.
- Provided an update about OMNY Cards and stated their office is working with the MTA and if one has a regular OMNY card that transfers are finally being honored.
- Their office is also working hard to see if they could try to see if the senior cards could allow more than one person because they know seniors don't necessarily travel on their own and if they are with their spouse or significant other, they should be able to use the same OMNY card.
- Their office has also been working with the Office of Pupil Transportation as it pertains to student MetroCard's to see if they can come up with a better system when it comes to the actual durability of the student OMNY card.
- Announced session starts the second week of January, and if anyone has any specific legislation or concerns that they want the senator to address while session is coming up, feel free to reach out to their office.
- Announced their office is now located at 37-18 Northern Boulevard.
- The last day to use the MetroCard is December 31, 2025.
- Q & A

0:23:19 Ruby Benitez, MTA provided the following update:

- Reported if anyone wants to track the process of their trips, they can make an account online where it shows a detailed account.
- They are working with a third-party vendor and working in collaboration to work out the glitches.
- In December they will be removing all MetroCard machines. By December 31, 2025, all of them will be removed from the system.
- You will still be able to use it on the buses and on the train. For example, if you bought a monthly this month and it doesn't end until January or February you will still be able to use the MetroCard but will not be able to add funds to it.
- They are removing coins on buses, but this won't happen until later in the year. When the information is available, they will advise.
- With OMNY there are benefits, called the Retail Network, so not only can you go to an actual station, but you can also go to a 7-Eleven or a CVS and different areas where one can add funds to their OMNY Card as it has a QR code on the back.
- Reported they sent out an email to non-profit organizations that they will be transitioning and provided a new email or ask for confirmation so they can provide updates on this. They will be moving to the OMNY system in January.

- Clarified the OMNY Card versus OMNY system, for those who don't get an OMNY card bus use the contactless payment like with a credit card are they are getting the free transfer.
- They must use the same credit card, and cannot use any card in their wallet, it must be the same one.
- After the 13th ride, everything else for that 7-day period will be free.
- In response to a question about interest on the money the OMNY vendor is receiving. For instance, if everyone buys an OMNY card for \$25.00 the system is then sitting on all that money until you keep reloading it.
- Also discussed was the issue of private data.
- Ruby Benetiz reported that she would have to follow up on this.

0:30:55 Karen Sheu, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez provided the following update:

- Reported the Senator hosted and joined nine Thanksgiving events across the Senator's District to celebrate our community and give away turkeys to families including five events in Queens.
- They are proud to help fund and join Argus Community Services food pantry distribution events in Queens over the past couple of months.
- The Senator had a chance to visit and learn more about their work uplifting emerging artists and fostering cultural access in LIC.
- She is excited to continue supporting their community-engaged programming.
- She was able to join the Hunters Point Parks Conservancy for their annual Bulb Fest.
- The Senator hosted her first State of the District Town Hall last month. They had over 100 community leaders and constituents attend in person and online. She thanked all for attending and engaging and supporting their office in this way.
- Q & A

0:32:46 Carlos Hernandez, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update:

- Reminded everyone of their new office location at 60-10 Queens Boulevard, by the Big Six Towers, lower level.
- They are working on getting signage for the building.
- Provided an update on their turkey giveaways, which took place on November 21, 2025. They gave out over 1,000 turkeys.
- They are hosting a toy drive going on from December 1, 2025, through December 15, 2025.
- Their office will be co-hosting a holiday tree lighting on December 8, 2025, at CC Moore Homestead Park, all are welcome.
- Their office hosts monthly 2-hour mobile office hour sessions in Maspeth, Elmhurst, Woodside and Jackson Heights at their respective public library locations.
- Call their office for the exact dates, the hours are from 3:00pm to 5:00 pm.

- Session begins in January and if anyone has any legislative concerns to contact their office.

0:35:06 Laura Shepard, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update:

- Announced their office is hosting a holiday toy drive this month. If anyone would like to drop off a donation, please call their office to schedule a time to drop it off at their office at: (718) 286-3000 or 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY.
- There is also a donation drive for medical supplies and bedding to go to Jamaica for Hurricane Melissa relief in the lobby at Queens Borough Hall.
- They will be collecting toys and board games up until the holiday tree lighting which will take place on December 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm.
- On December 17, 2025, they will be hosting a Hanukkah Menorah lighting ceremony at 4:30pm in front of Queens Borough Hall.
- RSVP to any of these events on their website at www.queensbp.nyc.gov
- Announced the Community Board applications will open on January 5, 2026, and will close on February 13, 2026, for anyone interested in applying or reapplying, you can follow up with their office when they make the formal announcement and launch the application link. The announcement will be made via their social media, email newsletter and on their website or email at www.nyc.queensbp.nyc.gov
- If anyone has any questions or concerns, reach out to (718) 286-3000 or email Laura at lshepard@queensbp.nyc.gov
- Announced the Department of Transportation will be holding a public workshop on the Queens Waterfront Greenway. On December 8, 2025, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Jacob Riis Settlement House at 10-25 41st Avenue.

0:37:35 Nerissa Martinez, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz provided the following update:

- Announced the Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz hosted a press conference to announce a major gang takedown. 32 reputed members of a southeast Queens gang were indicted for their involvement in 13 separate shootings over the span of 4 years. These shootings resulted in the deaths of three people. The DA's office in partnership with the NYPD investigated these shootings and now these 12 individuals are variously charged in a 97-count indictment with murder, attempted murder, conspiracy weapons charges and other crimes. The investigation also resulted in the seizure of 17 illegal firearms.
- Announced the Legal Explorers Program which is designed for high school students throughout Queens to expose them to various careers within the legal field. If anyone is interested, you can request an application from the Youth Empowerment at www.queensda.org

0:40:17 Marco Griego Puante, Woodside on the Move provided the following update:

- Their organization does district services involving housing rights, tenant rights, immigrant rights.
- They conduct workshops during the month.
- This past month, they were able to host two different turkey drives at PS 398 and PS 361. At PS 361, they were there to host and feed about 500 people and distributed 700 turkeys this year. They could not have done it without Council Member Won, Council Member Shekar Krishnan and the Hispanic Federation and Connected Chefs.
- Announced on December 8, 2025, they will be hosting their tree lighting ceremony and toy drive giveaway.
- If anyone needs their assistance to contact their office.

0:41:42 Simon Peter Tangney, Representing NY State Assembly Member Claire Valdez provided the following update:

- Reported they recently tabled and held a mobile office hours event at the Hunters Point Library on the 18th.
- On the 20th the Assembly Member joined the offices of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez and Council Member Julie Won and Sunnyside Shines to distribute information regarding Know Your Rights for Encounters with ICE to businesses along Queens Boulevard between 39th and 46th Street on Thanksgiving Day.
- On Thanksgiving Day, the Assembly Member was here with our District Director Carlos Munoz, helping to distribute food for seniors at Sunnyside Community Services.
- In terms of legislative updates, they have recently found their Bill A6326A has reached the governor's desk, and that it would require gas and electric utility companies to provide 45-day notice before implementing a rate hike.
- Provided an update regarding Green Asphalt. They have learned that it seems unlikely that Green Asphalt will meet the 12-11 deadline to double the height of their smokestack. It's unclear at this time whether DEC will choose to levy the entire \$125,000 fine. They will continue to advocate on behalf of the residents of Blissville.

0:43:53 Katie Crawford, Department of City Planning provided the following update:

- Announced the LIC Planning Neighborhood Plan was adopted by City Council on November 12, 2025. Further details, including the final neighborhood plan, will be coming out soon.
- She thanked the whole board, the Land Use Committee and everybody on the working group who helped us get to this point. The hard work was appreciated.
- Q & A

A board member stated there is no OneLIC, there is still a tale of two LIC's. He stated he sees no investments except investment neglect, there is still a separation for the haves and have-nots and is referring to Blissvile.

0:45:24 Monica Guzman, Sunnyside Community Services provided the following update:

- Announced last month was National Caregivers Month and National Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Sunnyside Community Services provides support to caregivers who care for loved ones with Alzheimer's Dementia and other illnesses.
- This Saturday, they will be hosting a free concert performing jazz and classical music. There will be a reception afterwards.
- Please visit their website to sign up at www.sunnysidecommunityservices.org.
- They will be open on Thanksgiving Day for their Senior Center members. They hosted about 200 and were joined by Assembly Member Valdez, Senator Gianaris and Community Board 2 Member Lisa Deller.
- Distributed 250 turkeys and 200 bags of groceries so families could enjoy Thanksgiving at home.
- They hosted their first holiday event for 200 guests from the local LaQuinta Shelter and provided them with a holiday meal, toys for all the kids
- Thanked everyone who donated on Giving Tuesday to help make it their most successful one yet.
- All donations allow them to make a variety of programming possible.
- Thanked everyone and wished happy holidays to everyone.

0:47:40 Ruby Benitez, MTA provided and update on the F/M Swap:

- Reported on the upcoming SWAP which will happen on Monday. The F and the M starting on Monday from 6:00am to 9:30pm will swap at eight selected stations. The F trains will replace M trains at Queens Plaza, Court Square and 23rd Street, Lexington Avenue 53 and 5th Avenue and 53rd Street. The four stations mentioned, you will see the F train there rather than the M.
- Similarly, the M train will replace F trains at 21st Street Queensbridge, Roosevelt Island, Lexington Avenue 63rd, and 57th Street. Of those eight stations, those are the only ones affected. Other than that, the F and the M will remain. Go in the same routes they usually do towards their end and beginning point.
- Q & A

A board member spoke about the new bus stop for 101 on Borden Avenue right by the tunnel vent as it is dangerous, as you can't get to it. If you go across the street, there is no coordination with DOT. The cars coming around and the bus coming around you can't see when you are crossing. There is no traffic stop or anything crossing that street. It's a dangerous spot. She asked if the MTA and NYC Transit bothered to coordinate with DOT. This is setting up a dangerous situation there. This is near the Queens Midtown Tunnel Vent Shaft.

0:59:42 Mae Francke, Transportation Alternatives Provided a Presentation on Protected Bike Lanes in Sunnyside and Woodside:

- Reported they do public realm, street safety, public transit and safe streets advocacy in the city. They do a lot of work and grassroots organizing.

- They came to discuss a campaign that they've been building for a couple of months about creating a protected bike lane network in Sunnyside and Woodside.
- They shared some of their stories and their experience of the work they have been doing.
- They want to have a bike lane network so that people can ride safely in the streets.
- Mae Francke introduced Elmer, a resident of Sunnyside who spoke about the proposal.

Philip Leff presented their idea to create connected network of bike lanes that allow people to safely ride throughout Sunnyside, Woodside and beyond.

- They are focusing on this idea of a network. They have seen in the past that a lot of transportation planning is done on a corridor-by-corridor basis, which has benefits for people who live and pass through those corridors, but is not a network. This plan can get people to all parts of the neighborhood and beyond.
- 47th Avenue provides a direct connection from LIC all the way to the edge of Woodside. Greenpoint Avenue improves connections to north Brooklyn.
- 43rd Street is really a north-south spine that can go directly from the Kosciusko Bridge all the way to Astoria.
- On the eastern side, closer to Woodside, 69th Street up the hill towards Maspeth and Glendale, Middle Village and 39th Avenue, a continuation of the Bike Boulevard. This would provide safety for an unruly stretch of road and be a link and a connection that goes all the way from Flushing Meadows Corona Park to the 59th Street Bridge and into Manhattan.
- 43rd Street and Honeywell Street Bridge, Astoria is not far away. This can connect the two neighborhoods.
- Protected bike lanes would really be part of a comprehensive street plan to make these areas easier to walk to.
- 47th Avenue is a direct street all the way from Skillman Avenue by LaGuardia Community College, all the way to the new film studio and the cemetery. It is an uninterrupted street that does not have any bus routes, making it a perfect place for traffic calming. It also passes by IS 125 the tragic site where a student was killed by a reckless driver of a box truck.
- He spoke about 39th Avenue and 69th Street and the bike connection to 34th Avenue and Northern Blvd. This is about expanding access and opportunity.
- Greenpoint Avenue is a direct connection to Greenpoint and north Brooklyn, an unruly stretch of road.
- They are not transportation planners and are actively engaged citizens. They are here to initiate and to begin a dialogue with the professional planners. They are here to open the discussion and want to make sure that their goals are met with network connectivity and of travel through our neighborhood and beyond.
- These locations are not set in stone.
- Q & A

1:32:41 General Public Comment

1:32:52 Lilian Morales, Long Island City YMCA provided the following update:

- The LIC YMCA is located on 32nd Place and Queens Boulevard
- They have a full-service fitness center with cardio and weights, indoor running track and 40 exercise classes, swimming lessons and lap swim.
- They have 3K and Pre-K programs, youth classes, personal training and massage therapy.
- Q & A

1:37:16 Melanie Marin, spoke about an Introduced Bill 1337-2025.

- This is a new bill that proposes the Department of Education to work in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop educational material on school vaccinations and the Department of Education plan to distribute these materials to all New York City Public School students including early childhood programs.
- The goal of these educational materials is to provide general information on how vaccines work, provide information on public health benefits of the vaccinations, as well as playing a role in disease prevention, the safety of vaccines, addressing misinformation of vaccines as well and where to obtain school required immunizations.
- This bill will require educational materials on school immunizations to be provided in English and the nine most common home languages spoken by students and any additional languages as determined by department.
- Not only would it address the current obstacles on access to vaccine information but help create additional health outcomes, including increasing health literacy among parents, improved health incomes, and strengthen herd immunity.
- She was there today to raise awareness of this bill and to advocate for support of this bill to not only improve the vaccination rates in public school classrooms by increasing and increasing cultural and linguistic and educational information available on school immunizations but creating a stronger healthier school community.
- Q & A

1:40:29 Kenny Medrano spoke on behalf of Sofra's Grill on 46th Street and reported that since March this business has been closed because of administrative fines. There is a publicly funded institution in Sunnyside Shines that has not been helpful in any meaningful way. This is an emergency where this business needs extra support and he was able to guide her to Small Business Services. A GoFundMe page has been set up.

1:48:13 Shynelle Blake, student at CUNY Grad School of Public Health and Health Policy spoke about the following:

- Works as a Health and Safety Coordinator for children's health needs. She spoke in support of the New York City Council Bill Intro 1337-2025. She is seeking Community

Board 2's support for this bill.

1:56:19 Orlando Bispo spoke about the following:

- Spoke about getting several children to go back to school as well as signing up a few people for their GED programs as well as making several donations for a lot of books in his store. He is still in need of his petitions for the no smoking sign.
- He spoke about \$115 dollar tickets each time somebody goes to sit down and eat at his neighbors, or they go to the dollar store.
- He spoke about failure to cooperate with the second circuit court's decision particularly the 108th's actions as well as the persecution of the execution of law. As the Chair and Manager, he said they are responsible and liable for all actions. Public authorities and their leasehold estates are your jurisdiction. Paid position or not will not negate negligence. Pursuant to 50-E, we will follow all the necessary appropriate file works for the Court of Claims and the Attorney General.
- He spoke about Article 77, Article 78 and Article 82, respectively.

1:58:23 Leticia Vasquez, stated she is a daughter of immigrants from Mexico and that a couple of weeks ago she saw a group for community members by 46th Street handing out whistles to alert community members to that they can alert whenever ICE was present in the community. Her pleas or call to action for CB 2 and community members that are listening to join forces as a community to work together to protect immigrants that have lived and worked here so hard for many years.

2:00:07 Attendance (Ryan Smith)

Board Members Present:	23	Board Members Absent:	5
Present Virtual	10	Excused	9
		Quorum:	Yes

2:06:10 Approval of November 2025 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Anatole Ashraf made a motion, and it was seconded by Kenny Greenberg to approve the November 2025 CB 2 Meeting Minutes with a friendly amendment to change Sheila Lewandowski's attendance to excused. All were in favor by a show of hands with none opposed and (3) three abstentions.

2:07:07 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf)

- Reported that the Borough Board took a vote on the Newtown Creek CSO ULURP and it passed unanimously, including the conditions that the Blissville Civic included along with everything else we had. It passed unanimously. CB 5 had no conditions at all when they voted.

- He noted that Borough President Richards said that whenever you bring CB 5 and CB 2 together other on something that's always an accomplishment.
- OneLIC Oversight Committee is still being formed, he doesn't expect much movement to it before the new year. If anyone is interested, please submit your interest.
- There will be some overlap with CB 2 and this committee.
- Announced By-Laws Committee has been formed. It will be Chaired and Co-Chaired by Patrick Martinez and Sheila Lewandowski. The other members are as follows:
Nelly Afshar, Michael Zoorob, Steve Cooper, Dr. Roz Gianutsos, Eric Narburgh, Morry Galonoy, Pia Rahman, Randy Plemel and Leticia Vasquez
- Announced, we want to get this done by March and we will have one monthly meeting and asynchronous work via email and work on the shared documents.
- Reported that last year, Ryan Smith, Secretary cast one vote for the whole year.

2:10:03 Vote for Executive Board for 2026

Ryan Smith made a motion to cast a vote for the slate for every office on the Executive Committee running unopposed. The motion was seconded. All were in favor of a show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

- *Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson*
- *Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, First Vice Chair*
- *Nelly Afshar, 2nd Vice Chair*
- *Ryan Smith, Secretary*
- *Michael Zoorob, Treasurer*
- *Patrick Martinez, Parliamentarian*

2:11:50 Treasurer's Report (Michael Zoorob)

- Provided an update to the Board's operational budget.
- This refers to two different things.
- There is the statement of needs process which is the city's budget where the Community Board has a formal role under the Charter to provide feedback to the City about our priorities that shape agencies allocations and funding.
- Separately there is the community board's budget that is about the operational budget of the board.
- The Community Board is functionally an agency of the city and so it has a budget that it receives in appropriations, and the board decides how to allocate that budget.
- In our by-laws they do speak to this point that the Treasurer shall on a quarterly basis review and report to the board on its operational budget.
- Also to prepare a proposed operational budget in writing and submit it to the board for approval prior to each fiscal year.
- He believes the Board has never voted on its operational budget.
- He reported that he received from the office the of Q1 of fiscal year 2026. operational budget and how things have been spent and some information about allocations.

- He also discussed very preliminarily some thinking around the operational budget for the remainder of the fiscal year and into the coming years.
- There are three types of expenses in the community board's operational budget. The first is personal services, the second is rent for the board office, which is a separate thing and is handled separately from the other two and handled by a different agency.
- The third category is other than personal services (OTPS)
- The rent and personal services are the vast majority of the budget. The grand total allocated to CB 2 annually for the fiscal year 2026 is \$416,000 and about two thirds is personal services, about 30% is rent.
- 4% \$17,000 is other than personal services.
- There is a public website from the comptroller where you can get statistics about agencies including community boards. It is called Checkbook NYC.
- He discussed the purchase of a laptop and purchase of a desktop on July 14, 2025, and they're categorized as fiscal year 26 on the website and when he consulted with the office it was a fiscal year 25 expense.

Sheila Lewandowski stated that when she served on the executive committee with Denise and Lisa at different times, they actually did look into the OTPS and there were things about hiring consultants for Land Use and looking at the contracts for even the office equipment and what was left at the end of the year and how to best use it. She didn't want to leave it out there, that it has never happened before. It may not have been in the general minutes but was in the Executive and Budget Committee minutes.

Lisa Deller stated that we never reported to the full board we would have discussions with the office about spending or if there was extra money at year end how that would be spent. During Covid we had lots of conversations about technology. We had a more active collaboration with the office about that, but we never reported back. She thanked Michael for doing a good job.

Michael Zoorob reported that a large chunk is already non-negotiable and accounted for. Such as filming board meetings and renting the space for CB 2 meetings is a big expense. These are essential to the functioning of the board, cleaning the office and hosting meetings on zoom also have quite a big expense and are likely to increase.

As of October, the OTPS actual available balance was listed as approximately \$3,300. He spoke about codifying our principles for the budget process for voting and is requesting people who could work with him to help iron out a form for committee chairs to say what their thoughts are on the OTPS expenses.

It is a constrained environment; we can deliberate as a collective community board and have a conversation about this in the way that other boards are already doing. He hopes to share some context and to build alignment on this whole thing and to think about fiscal year 2026, what does the current \$3,000 apparently that is unallocated

Our board has experienced persistent zoom bombings both in the full board meeting and in committee meetings and having a webinar set up where not anyone can just unmute themselves is sorely needed. This may result in incurring additional expenses. We have an opportunity to weigh in but our opportunity is constrained.

He will work with the office on a write-up and there are a lot of expenses that he doesn't understand.

Q & A

2:42:03 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert) provided the following update:

- Stated it is great to work together and to be collaborative and that it is great to have this dialogue and the input is important.
- She reported that the Pitney Bowes Stamp Machine is for mass mailings as we are required to mail notices to the community for public hearings as this is part of what the Community Board is supposed to do.
- She further explained that it has happened in the past where people had promised other entities money from the board. We are not a council office; we are not a community or a civic group.
- The Budget has always been collaborative with the Chair of the Community Board that is who the budget is always discussed with.
- Anyone who makes a request usually makes it through the Chair into the District Office. We get a new pot of money every July for the fiscal year which is from July to June. That is how we allocate money where the money is needed.
- We are allowed to buy swag so we can promote the Community Board.
- Many years ago, there was extra Council Money for a lot of things, where the Council body gave it to all the community boards equally and each board decided how to spend it.
- This is how we were able to come into the 21st Century because former CB 2 Chair, Lisa Deller and some of our former chairs were quite proactive, as well as current Chair, Anatole Ashraf, to make sure that we are technically savvy. We are still working on that, and she thanked Anatole Ashraf for it is very important. We are trying to work to do better.
- Money is allocated based on our purchase orders. If there is any type of swag, such as suggestions made by Morry Galonoy, Danielle Brecker and Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos such as bags, pens and little purses and buttons. We do not have discretionary money. There are boards that have gotten into a lot of trouble, and some boards had problems during that period of time which the \$42,000 dollars was given as they purchased a car and were not allowed to do that.
- We do not have a check book. We do have a system called the FMS system and we can only move money and do so through the system.

- She explained that interns have to be paid. In the past we have had interns from LaGuardia Community College as they have a Co-op program. We are trying to get them to continue to do that.
- Debbie stated that we love new ideas; we always love working together and she wanted to congratulate everyone on the fact that CB 2 has never been in the red and that we have always managed our budget well.
- Updates:
 - **Department of Sanitation**, no curbside trash compost or recycling on Thursday, December 25, 205 on Christmas Day. Their winter schedule began this week for the 25-26 snow season.
 - **Parks Update**
 - Blissville completion of the Veteran Memorial is expected in March 2026
 - Davidson Park completion, March 2026
 - Court Square Project expected end of February 2026
 - Murray Playground design is expected April 2026.
 - Toursney Design is in December 2025.
 - Lifeguard jobs – visit www.nyc.gov/parks
- **Community Advisory Notice** from DDC an installation of catch basin, chutes and manholes at 43rd Avenue and 57th Street from 12/08/2025 through December 12, 2025.
- CB 2 had approximately 9 complaints for the month of November. The top complaints were:
 - PD – Illegally parked vehicles
 - DOS – Trash, Illegal Dumping
 - DOT – Potholes, Pedestrian Walkways
- The Office will be closed on Thursday, December 25, 2025, Christmas Day.
- Wished all who celebrate Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza and Merry Christmas and an enjoyable holiday season and Happy New Year to all.
- The next Community Board 2 Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

Anatole Ashraf announced the DSNY is hiring snow shovelers for \$19.00 per hour. Visit the website at www.nyc.gov/dsny

2:50:51 Land Use & Housing (Anatole Ashraf provided the update):

- At the Land Use & Housing Committee's November Meeting, the committee voted to support the homeowner's application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a skylight replacement at 40-12 44th Street following a clear presentation of the scope and preservation considerations.
- We also agreed to write a letter endorsing Big Reuse and the Newtown Creek Alliance's proposal to serve as stewards of the Borden Avenue street end, a key access point to Dutch Kills.

- Phipps/Mega provided an update on construction. The Committee asked that they meet directly with the Phipps Tenant's Association regarding the request for Saturday operating hours before any decision is made.
- NYU Wagner students presented early work on a localized hazard mitigation plan for Long Island City.
- The Committee also discussed the forthcoming OneLIC Oversight Committee application process, expected soon from Council Member Won's office, and requested a future EDC presentation to clarify the status and potential uses of the DOE-controlled public site within the rezoning area.

2:51:50 Transportation Committee (Corey Hannigan provided the update)

- The Committee heard a presentation from Gil Lopez, Big Reuse and Willis Elkins from the New town Creek Alliance. We voted in favor of signing onto Land Use's letter and we will agree with that committee.
- We voted unanimously in favor of making the entire space public green space and request the city work with two organizations who have worked to reclaim this space from toxic dumpers and polluters and government negligence as well as the community members who have created a public good in the skate park. This small, neglected lot has a lot of potential for public use, and we are grateful that community stewardship has been offered.
- There was also a presentation on Greenpoint Avenue. Advocates working with Brooklyn CB 1 presented to us their proposal for Greenpoint Avenue and included an additional proposal for Greenpoint on our side to do a safety study and comprehensive safety redesign. This is an important connection for our two boroughs. The Committee voted unanimously to request the street safety improvement project including protected bike lanes from Greenpoint Avenue bridge and extending to and on Roosevelt Avenue all the way through our district.
- We saw the same presentation that TA presented tonight. We voted in favor with none opposed and one abstention. The Committee has already requested that many of these corridors be given protected bike lanes and street safety improvements and even included most of them in our budget request this year.
- We pressed DOT on the slow restriping of streets after repaving and pushed for Woodside Avenue to get its crosswalks back. Today, the outlines of the crosswalk finally went down, we expect to see it soon.
- We voted to request physical vertical barriers, separating the shared pedestrian and bike lane from the automobile onramp under the LIE at 43rd Street, that is where it approaches the K Bridge.
- There were some changes to the New York City Ferry that will make trips during rush hour from Hunters Point to Wall Street much faster.

2:54:18 Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused and Shelter Committee (Lauren Springer)

- The Committee did not have a meeting in November.

- The next meeting is on December 8, 2025, at 6:00pm and it is virtual. There will be a presentation from Principal Lousi Garcia of Queens Technical High School and a presentation from Abbott House Community Partnership on Foster Parenting.

2:54:55 City Services & Public Safety Committee (Danielle Brecker)

- Announced the next City Services & Public Safety Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

2:55:18 Arts & Cultural Affairs (Karesia Batan)

- Last month, we had Flushing Town Hall about their open grant cycle which the deadline is December 18, 2025, but also on the status of their cultural mapping project which was funded by the state. They are in the process of creating a literal cultural map that lists all the arts and culture spaces and entities across the borough.
- If anyone knows of an entity that is not currently on their map, please check out their project on the Flushing Town Hall website.
- We also brought in the Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts New York organization. They are also creating a different but complementary type of mapping from an advocacy collaboration standpoint, and they showed us the beta version of it. Visit their website at www.nocdny.org. It is a visual version of LinkedIn specific to arts and culture and advocacy so you can see who is already signed up on there.
- Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts is something that we are trying to push forward as visibility standpoint specifically in the context of OneLIC because we do believe that this is a naturally occurring cultural district especially along the artery of 46th Avenue and we want to make sure that stands strong and visible throughout the entire development that is in the pipeline.
- We had a quick update about what is happening with Bliss Theater. The developer has been very responsive and cooperative with us and allowed her, Eric along with Christine, to go inside of the building. They have completed the demo inside and we have made a list of things that we want to preserve. They hired a third-party salvage company that has taken those items out along with other things and brought them back to their warehouse in Connecticut to restore them. We are in the process of making sure our list of things that we want brought back to us and implemented in whatever their next stage of design is.
- All were invited to attend the Arts & Culture Committee Meeting on Tuesday because there will be lots of exciting announcements including the borough-wide meeting that she co-hosted with the Borough President's Office and all the Arts & Culture Committees in Queens. There are exciting plans on the agenda and advocacy for arts and Culture.

Sheila Lewandowski reported that she and Karesia both attended a rally on the steps of City Hall with Council Member Eric Botcher who is the current chair for the Committee for Culture and the Arts and it's something that would be popular in this area as well and it was cosponsored with Keith Powers from Manhattan to do zoning specific to artist housing live

work space. There is also another bill that she thinks will connect with that that is also being sponsored by Council Member Botcher for a kind of SRO-type housing, but these two things will connect.

Karesia reported there are two independent dedicated arts and culture committees, CB 1 and CB 2. She felt strongly about convening all the community boards with any committees that housed their arts and cultural activities on community Boards. Over half showed up to this meeting. There are arts in every community board district. There will be an update at her next meeting. They are trying to advocate how to get more artists involved and how all community boards can look at their bylaws such as ours. She referenced all the activities that CB 2 has done

3:00:52 Environment, Parks & Recreation (Carlos Castell Croke)

- Reported the committee did not meet last month due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- The Committee will not meet in December as it is Christmas.
- They will have a meeting in January.

3:01:11 Small Business and Local Economy (Anatole Ashraf provided the update)

No report as Morry Galonoy was excused.

3:01:12 Engagement & Inclusion (Amaurys Valdez)

- Announced that he is partnering up with 11 labs and a few other AI companies for a global hackathon. He wanted to encourage everyone in CB 2 and in Queens to come and participate in the hackathon. He describes a hackathon where they partner with various companies and basically have 6 hours or so to build an application using these services. It is a way for one to network, meet people who are like-minded and are into tech products and build an application that can be useful. He announced he would be one of the judges and encouraged all to participate.
- He spoke about a speaker that came in at the last meeting who is the director of NYC Mayor's Office from Criminal Justice, by the name of Dionne Logan and she spoke about the importance of creating housing and welcoming formerly incarcerated individuals and the obstacles she faces and how we can help.
- Announced the holiday food drive from November 25, 2025, through December 24, 2025. There are three drop-off locations, St. Raphaels Church, 35-20 Greenpoint Avenue, Church of St. Teresa's 52-20 45th Street, Woodside, and La Hornada at 47-09 30th Street.
- Announced the Coat Drive. We have a new partner which is Culture Lab which will be another drop-off location and thanked them for allowing us to do that.
- It is outdoors at 5-25 46th Avenue, LIC. Another partner is the GPK Foundation America 41-66 72nd Street Suite 1A, Woodside, NY.

- Announced from the Tech Committee that he and Randy Plemel will be working on the OneLIC Tracker website. If anyone is interested in helping, to reach out to him.

Karesia requested via the Engagement Committee if there was any way to table at some of the upcoming street lighting events and the Sunnyside Shines holiday market at Sunnyside Community Services, which would be a great opportunity for us to start introducing and reintroducing ourselves to the community and letting them know that they should apply for membership.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
MA Gurrado

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

X Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson
X Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2
X Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2