



*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*

January 12, 2026

Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Committee Member Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey, Vice Chair
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Committee Member Absentees:

John Bahia
Warren Davis
Benjmain Lucas
Alyssa Sawicki
Phugelzen Sherpa
Leticia Vasquez

Committee Member Excused:

Nellie Afshar

Health and Human Services Public Member Attendees:

Andrea Thomas

Health and Human Services Public Members Absentees:

Olivia Jackson Lewis
Robert Wohner
Judy Zangwill

Community Board 2 Staff:

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager

Guests:

Raida Hossain, LiveOnNY
Judy Armijo, Volunteer for LiveOnNY
Will Santos, New York Blood Center
Doreen Fiscina, New York Blood Center
Jordyn Rosenthal

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

Lauren Springer, Chair of the Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee, welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

LiveOnNY

Raida Hossain of LiveOnNY provided a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment 1) that described the organization's history and mission, highlighted the importance of organ donation, and explained the different types of donation. She shared the following information:

- LiveOnNY is a non-profit organization that handles organ and tissue donation, serving all five New York City boroughs, as well as Nassau County, Suffolk County, and the lower Hudson Valley.
- The organization's mission is to save lives, provide comfort, and strengthen legacies through organ, eye, and tissue donation.
- Nearly 9,000 New Yorkers are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, about 80% are living within LiveOnNY's designated service area. The greatest need is for kidney transplants, followed by liver, heart, and lung transplants.
- People of color are more likely to need life-saving transplants.
- One organ donor can save up to eight lives and enhance the lives of up to 75 people through tissue donation. Tissue donation may include cornea transplants, ACL repairs, heart valves, bone grafts, and skin grafts for burn victims.
- Deceased donation, such as organ, eye, and tissue donation, only occurs when a patient dies in a hospital and is declared deceased by a doctor. This type of donation requires that a patient be registered as an organ donor or that authorization be granted. Rigorous testing is done to ensure that organs are healthy.
- Living donation involves donors choosing who receives their organ. While LiveOnNY does not manage living donations, they are handled by transplant centers.
- Ms. Hossain stated that the best way to support LiveOnNY is to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry. Individuals may also register as organ donors at the DMV, on voter registration forms, through the New York State of Health Marketplace, or online.
- LiveOnNY works within families' time frames for burial after organ and tissue recovery. Family members of organ donors are not responsible for the costs of organ donation, as these are covered by their respective organ procurement organization.

Judy Armijo, a volunteer with LiveOnNY, detailed her experience with the organization after the passing of her daughter, a registered organ donor. Ms. Armijo explained that when she decided to have her daughter's liver donated, LiveOnNY was supportive and responsive and coordinated the organ transfer to a designated recipient. Ms. Armijo also shared that

she has formed close relationships with LiveOnNY staff, donated a kidney, and is a staunch advocate for organ donation.

The New York Blood Center

Will Santos and Doreen Fiscina of the New York Blood Center provided a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment 2) that shared information about the organization and emphasized the importance of blood donation. They shared the following:

- The New York Blood Center is a non-profit organization and is one of the largest blood centers in the world.
- Although 68% of New York State's population is eligible to donate blood, only 3% donate.
- The nonprofit has a large laboratory that manufactures blood products and a research facility to study blood-related illnesses and treatments. The New York Blood Center is a leader in sickle cell research.
- There is a large need for donors who are able to donate to patients undergoing sickle cell treatment.
- The presenters highlighted the importance of receiving blood donations from a diverse population, which led the organization to open a Queens donor center at 107-10 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375.
- They invited the community to attend a blood drive at Queens Angels Church on Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 PM at 44-04 Skillman Avenue, Sunnyside, NY 11104.
- Blood donation is vital. On average, pediatric patients use about 652,000 units of blood annually. One donation can help save more than one life, and 25% of the blood supply is used by patients undergoing cancer treatment.
- The New York Blood Center offers scholarships to students who organize blood drives in their communities

The Chair thanked the presenters for attending the committee meeting and for their contributions to the community.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos and it was seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Nava