



*Donovan Richards*  
*Queens Borough President*

# Community Board No. 2

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*Anatole Ashraf*  
*Chairperson*  
*Debra Markell Kleinert*  
*District Manager*

**January 8, 2026**

## **Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes**

***This meeting was held in person and teleconference on Zoom***

### **Community Board 2 Board Members – Present**

*Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar (PV), Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Karesia Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz (PV), Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Evelyn Chango, Lisa Charles, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Corey Hannigan (PV), Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter (PV), James Kim, Prameet Kumar (PV), Sheila Lewandowski, Eric Narburgh, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel (PV), Randy Plemel, Pia Rahman (PV), Oumaya Saab, Norberto Saldana, Ryan Smith, Lauren Springer, Amaurys Valdez, Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob*

### **Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent**

#### **Unexcused:**

*Chhemang Lama, Bradford Leibin, Benjamin Lucas, Andie Olivares, Phugelzen Sherpa, Akello Thomas*

#### **Excused:**

*Patrick Martinez, Alyssa Sawicki, Alaina Van Slooten*

### **Community Board 2 Staff**

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

### **Elected Officials**

*Adam Lee, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng*  
*Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris*  
*Karen Sheu, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez*  
*Tiffany Eschevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez (PV)*  
*Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga*  
*Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won*  
*Laura Shepard, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards*

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

## **Department of City Planning**

*Katie Crawford*

### **Public Comment**

*Barry Druss*

*Doug Korman*

*Joe LoBello*

*Tom Delgado*

*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)*

**0:03:05:** Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided housekeeping rules and reminded everyone that their vote is their opinion. He requested everyone follow the WAIT Rule (Why am I talking).

### **0:03:20 Pledge of Allegiance**

**0:03:33** Anatole Ashraf requested a moment of silence for Renee Nicole Good.

**0:04:14** Anatole Ashraf announced Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos would take over chairing the meeting for tonight as he was not feeling well.

**0:05:08 Adam Lee, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng** provided the following update:

- Representative Meng is excited to announce that her office will be holding weekend office hours at her Flushing office, located at 40-13 159<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A on Saturday, January 11th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information or questions, please call Rep. Meng's district office at (718) 358-6364.
- Rep. Meng Supports Extending the ACA Tax Credits (Just Passed in the House)
- Representative Meng has supported extending the Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits to keep healthcare affordable for families in Queens.
- House Democrats and a few House Republicans have voted in the House to extend these tax credits for three years. It will move to the senate

- At a time when hardworking Americans are seeing their grocery and utility costs rise, Representative Meng will continue to advocate for access to affordable healthcare.
- Representative Meng Introduced the Honoring Family Friendly Workplaces Act.
- Representative Meng introduced a bill to reward employers who make it easier for workers to balance their jobs and families by establishing a national certification program for exemplary family-friendly businesses.
- This bill recognizes companies that offer paid-leave, flexible scheduling, and supportive policies.
- Representative Meng is committed to lifting family-friendly employers and ensuring greater economic opportunities, stability and prosperity for workers and their families in Queens.
- Representative Meng Works to Protect Queens from Mail Theft
- As peak season for mail services begins, Representative Meng is proud of the work she has done to prevent mail theft in Queens.
- Last year, at her urging, the United States Postal Service's Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit of mail theft in queens. The audit, which came at Representative Meng's request, revealed mismanagement in the deployment and installation of mail theft mitigation initiatives throughout Queens. The audit provided the USPS with recommendations to address the rise in mail theft. Representative Meng is excited to announce that the USPS has agreed to implement these recommendations, helping to strengthen mail theft in Queens.
- Representative Meng's office can assist constituents who have been victims of mail theft or are experiencing issues with the Postal Service. For requests for assistance please call Representative Meng's district office (718) 358-6364.
- Representative Meng is looking forward to continuing to serve the residents of Queens in 2026.

**0:08:30 Mercedes Jennings**, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris provided the following update: (comments were inaudible)

A request was made for assistance with the bus stop relocation on Queens Boulevard with plans to advocate for keeping it in its current location. They also discussed issues with fees and hidden charges on utility bills, emphasizing the need for consumer protection measures.

**0:20:19 Karen Sheu**, Representing New York Senator Gonzalez's provided the following updates:

- Reported on the Senator's commitment to addressing affordability and technology issues in New York. The Senator introduced over 50 bills last year, with 19 passing the Senate,
- As Chair of the Senate Internet and Technology Committee, she is committed to ensuring the safe and ethical adoption of technology.
- She introduced bills to address the use of AI in NYC at the Senate hearing room at 250 Broadway

- She recently joined a coalition to ban junk fees and subscription traps and was part of an announcement for universal childcare for 2-year-olds.
- The office is also handling state-level cases in a vacant assembly district that overlaps with their area.
- If anyone needs assistance to reach out to their office at [www.gonzaleznystate.gov](http://www.gonzaleznystate.gov).
- Q & A

**0:22:57 Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez** provided the following update:

- Provided updates on recent political developments, including the House's vote to extend Obamacare premium tax credits for three more years and Congresswoman Velasquez's advocacy for small businesses. The congresswoman supported this bill, and it now goes to the US Senate.
- The Congresswoman pushed back on the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy to explain and question why they had not done enough to push back on all the policies, specifically the tariffs that are hurting all small businesses. The Congresswoman believes that small businesses deserve a strong advocate.
- She condemned the fatal shooting involving ICE and called for an investigation into the incident.
- Q & A

**0:28:35 Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga** provided the following update:

- Reported Assembly Member Raga was at 26 Federal Plaza with some companions about the events that happened with the announcement of increased ICE raids in the district.
- Their office continues to monitor those, and they have their response teams, and they have partnerships with other community organizations in the district.
- She also discussed assistance for seniors and addressing uncleaned sidewalks in the district. If anyone knows of any senior who needs assistance with snow shoveling to reach out to their office.
- Provided an update on their big MLK cleaning community day.
- If anyone would like to volunteer, please let their office know.
- Reported their holiday toy drive in December, they allocated over 200 toys to families in the district that are in need.
- Announced their mobile office hours.
- Q & A

**0:31:49 Farah Salam, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won** provided the following updates:

- Wished all a Happy New Year.

- Reported the Council Member has begun her new term including the completion of \$2.2 billion in neighborhood investments, 7,384 constituent cases, increase in school seats by 6,000 K through 12 and community giveaways 4,000 toys and 5,000 turkeys and 8,800 backpacks for school age children.
- This term they are still awaiting Council Member Won's committee assignments.
- She announced upcoming events such as the Discretionary Training for Nonprofits, housing lawyer appointments, and immigration clinics. This will take place on January 14, 2026, at 6:00 pm online. Sign up through their website or reach out to their office.
- She announced that those who are non-profits that are planning for the budget for capital funding, the deadline for projects requesting both the Borough President and Council funding is February 19, 2026. The deadline for projects requesting only NYC Council Funding is on March 19, 2026.
- They have their housing lawyer appointments on January 12 and January 26.
- If anyone needs assistance with their landlords or has a question, reach out to their office.
- They have some availability for their immigration clinic.
- She also discussed the Pre-K and 3K application process, emphasizing the deadline and potential website issues. Applications are due on February 27, 2026.
- Discussed the DEP Flooding Town Hall meeting at Culture Lab on the 14th. This is open to everyone who lives in LIC. Registration is required.
- The following week on the 21<sup>st</sup>, they will have DEP flooding town hall at Sunnyside Community Services. Registration is required. Once registered, individuals will be eligible for a free flooding kit.
- She highlighted the rescheduled LIC Parks Walk and Talk which will take place on January 24, 2026 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- She discussed the signing of an executive order to ban junk fees and subscription traps.
- Announced Council Member Won will attend the February 2026 Board Meeting to provide OneLIC updates.
- Announced their office has been working to set up a community oversight committee of people who live and work in Long Island City as well as local experts.
- Discussed the new mayoral transition with many city agencies who are still awaiting new leadership appointments. These agencies will not be able to begin implementing the OneLIC plan until their leadership and staffing is confirmed. They are on track for the implementation timeline. She reported approximately 100 people filled out their interest form and they are working in close collaboration with Anatole and other people on the community board and community partners to fill out full committees and are seeking funding to support the committee's work.
- Q & A

Reilly Owens, Chair, Transportation Committee discussed the following:

- CB 2 sent many letters seeking resolutions that the committee has made asking for protected bike lanes and pedestrian safety improvements within our district. The

streets master plan requires that a certain number of bike lanes be built each year. NYC has not met those goals. There are a lot of places to build bike lanes and pedestrian safety improvements within the district.

- We have taken a vote on Greenpoint Avenue and Roosevelt Avenue through the district as well as places in Sunnyside, south of Queens Boulevard and Woodside, which has no protected bike lanes. He is requesting the Council Member reach these resolutions and ask the mayor to please start building.

Farah Salam stated the Council Member would review and of course advocate both the mayor and the new commissioner to get those bike lanes and other safety improvements on track.

Warren Davis stated that it was reported the Council Member allocated about \$2 billion within her tenure within the last four years, and out of that \$2 billion, he did not recall seeing any investments in Blissville.

In addition, he reported that he saw that Blissville during the OneLIC plan is a context area, yet the council member was able to secure 200 million for another context area in Community Board 2 for Queensbridge, which he applauds Queensbridge for being able to secure that money. Now we hear that there is money that is going to be secured for sewer infrastructure for other areas outside of LIC. He does not see anything for Blissville, which is a community that is in desperate need of infrastructure repairs, infrastructure investments. There are many advocates and friends here who fought a good fight on their behalf and hopefully the Council Member is on board.

Farah Salan thanked him for sharing this and clarified that the two billion invested that usually goes towards capital projects, within the district that could be trees planted, road improvements and a variety of things that don't impact on one certain neighborhood but is meant to address all the needs of all the neighborhoods within the district. It also goes towards nonprofit funding, schools, parks renovations and things like that.

After the budget is passed, they put out a whole description on their weekly email and as well as their newsletter just describing what a lot of the investments that Council Member Won has fought for to get invested in the community.

With regards to the flooding, and other major weather problems impacting Blissville, they will work with DEP to make sure that they will have all their needs addressed. She will have their new District Manager work with him on getting this addressed.

She will also be attending the Green Asphalt walkthrough in a couple of weeks.

For the OneLIC, she will ask their Land Use Director to address that in an email to him because she is more familiar with the entire project and the context areas and investments.

Sheila Lewandowski inquired about co-op boards and that she has been hearing from a number of people and she can forward material to her on this that there are two laws put forward by Jumaane Williams a number of years ago is how co-op boards need to give a reason for denying an application to go through for a purchase. Right now, they do not.

The other item is to put in some regulation about how long the process should take before the board can officially respond. She provided an example where an estate situation where the apartment sat for a year because the board didn't respond and yet the people who were trying to sell it then had to continue to pay the taxes, because the board did not act. They should have a timeline in which they have to respond.

The other item has to do with homes throughout the district including Blissville including LIC and Sunnyside is that the DEP offers to replace the lead water service lines into homes in certain areas at no cost. Not this area because the income levels have been higher. This doesn't help someone who has been in their home for 40 years who is a teacher on an income that cannot afford that. She is requesting her to press for the DEP to provide that service throughout the city.

Farah Salam requested that with co-ops, please forward to the Council Member's Office and their legislative team will investigate it.

Farah Salem reported the Council Member Won has been aware of it and we have been working pushing DEP and she believes their legislative team was looking into ways to get DEP to comply and help homeowners who have lived in the district who may have lived in their homes for 40 years or who are qualified for SCHE or DRIE to be able to get some assistance

**0:47:07 Laura Shepard, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards** provided the following update:

- Their office will be hosting a virtual Housing Connect webinar on how to find affordable housing on January 20, 2026, at 6:00 pm, via zoom.
- The announcement will be made via their social media, email newsletter and on their website or email at [www.nyc.queensbp.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.queensbp.nyc.gov)
- Announced on February 23, 2026, at 5:00 pm, they will be hosting their Lunar New Year celebration at Queens Borough Hall. Special honors for distinguished members of the AAPI community will take place.
- February 25, 2026, 5:30 pm they will be hosting their Black History Month at Queens Borough Hall. BP Richards will announce the winning students of his annual African America Heritage Scholarship.
- As part of their ongoing efforts to make higher education more accessible, the Borough President relaunched this annual scholarship competition last month for high achieving Queens high school seniors interested in pursuing a college education. Applications must be submitted by January 9, 2026, and review by the BP's African American Heritage Committee. The scholarship application can be access online and transcripts

can be submitted by email to Director Sharn Anderson at [sanderson@queensbp.nyc.gov](mailto:sanderson@queensbp.nyc.gov).

- Community Board Application has reopened for the 2026 appointments. It will close on February 13, 2026. For all those interested in applying or reapplying the online form is available on their website at [www.queensbp.nyc.gov](http://www.queensbp.nyc.gov).
- For current members or if you are unsure if you need to reapply, if you were appointed in an even year, you are due for renewal and should reapply if interested. If you are unsure what year you were appointed, your Chair and District Manager were provided with a roster list with that information in November.
- Their office has this information, and you can reach out to Michael Carlier, Director of Community Boards. His number is (718) 286-2618 or email him at [mcarlier@queensbp.nyc.gov](mailto:mcarlier@queensbp.nyc.gov).
- Announced Mulch Fest if anyone wanted to recycle their Christmas trees. Reach out to 311 to find the locations.
- If anyone has any questions or concerns, reach out to (718) 286-3000 or email Laura at [lshepard@queensbp.nyc.gov](mailto:lshepard@queensbp.nyc.gov)

**0:52:04 Katie Crawford, Department of City Planning** provided the following update:

- Announced the Final Industrial Plan was released in late December and is available on their website. She will send an email and provide the link.
- Q & A

**0:54:03 General Public Comment**

**0:54:05 Jordyn Rosenthal**, a social worker and advocate for non-police mental health crisis response, systems. introduced herself and expressed frustration with the lack of responsiveness from Julie Won's office regarding the need for Be Heard expansion and budget negotiations. She is looking to get involved in Community Boards outside of her professional capacity.

**1:03:08 Thomas Mituzas** spoke about the following:

Reported that yesterday, the Blissville Civic Association and several businesses in Blissville had the opportunity to testify before the City Planning Commission with respect to DEP's combined sewer overflow tunnel. They spoke of their support for the plan, however the lack of community outreach by DEP, the investment they see and specifically the application of NY State Law for New York State disadvantaged communities such as Blissville. They spoke of the response they received from City Planning during one of CB2's Land Use Committee Meetings where they touted the CSO tunnel as an investment for Blissville. As it stands today, there are no investments for Blissville associated with CSO tunnel.

However, they seek to change this, yesterday it was announced that they were armed with the unanimous support from CB 3 and the Borough President's Board meetings unanimous support.

It is now up to City Planning to make a decision and then it goes to the City Council. The hope is that Council Member Won advocates of us. The state's law's intent was to ensure disadvantaged communities were not left behind. He thanked Community Board 2 for their continued support.

He announced he looks forward to meeting with NY State Senator Gianaris, and thanked Mercedes Jennings.

**1:05:25 Joe Lobello spoke about the following:**

Thanked CB 2 for their time and commitment to the community. He is seeking help in cleaning up and getting the cars off the sidewalk in the area north of here between Sunnyside and Woodside between 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the mid-50's by the Woodside Community School. With the 52<sup>nd</sup> Street subway station shut down for construction going towards Manhattan in the morning, many are walking to the R train the conditions as there is no alternative side of the street parking on those blocks.

The area is littered with abandoned cars and beaters from the chop shop; those same businesses take up a lot of the sidewalk. It is difficult for parents and moms with strollers to get around these vehicles on the sidewalk.

There is also litter and garbage out on the street.  
He has reported these issues to 311.

Reilly Owens encouraged him to file 311 complaints and to forward them to the CB 2 Office.

**1:12:27 Doug Korman** discussed plans for a community space under a highway, proposing a dome structure for events and food production. He emphasized the need to act before repairs begin, as different government factions are involved in the project.

**1:20:19 Barry Druss** spoke about the need for rapid transit to address increased car traffic from new apartment developments.

**1:23:15 Tom Delgado** introduced himself as a comedian and former lawyer, expressing interest in community involvement.

**1:25:38 Leticia Vasquez** provided information on ICE sightings and the importance of community vigilance.

**1:29:21 Laura Shepard** mentioned the removal of the ghost bike for Gelacio Reyes on 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 39<sup>th</sup> Street near a BMW dealership and promised to follow up on its restoration.

**1:30:37 Attendance (Ryan Smith)**

**Board Members Present: 30**                      **Board Members Absent: 6**  
**Present Virtual 8**                      **Excused 3**                      **Quorum: Yes**

**1:34:56 Approval of the December 2025 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Amparo Abel-Bey and seconded Carlos Castell Croke to approve the December 2025 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried with all in favor with none (0) opposed and five (5) abstentions.

**1:37:09 Chairperson’s Report (Anatole Ashraf)**

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos provided the following report on behalf of Chairperson Anatole Ashraf:

- Announced applications for Community Board 2 Membership are open now until February 13, 2026.
- Public Members should apply and may have to reapply.
- December 18, 2026, there was an Executive and personnel meeting. During the Executive Session, a discussion on staff performance took place. As this is a personnel matter and any questions would be taken offline.

**1:39:32 Sheila Lewandowski**, Vice Chair, Bylaws Revision Task Force thanked the committee for all their work to date. They are working through a draft and will have another meeting on January 28, 2026, before they provide an update to the full board at the February meeting in order that it can be done before the new members come in April. Sheila announced the current bylaws on the website.

**1:41:07 Treasurer’s Report (Michael Zoorob)**

- Provided an update on the Board’s operational budget expenses from Q1 this year which are on the website.
- Announced he has been working closely with the office on creating a regular quarterly cadence where we share those updates and put them on the website.
- He thanked the office for working with him on this.
- Discussed the bylaws and that they are working to codify some of the things the Treasurer has done historically on this board with the Capital and Expense Committee.
- Thanked Sheila and Patrick and the rest of the Bylaws’ committee for their help.
- Announced we have made a lot of progress on Zoom, which has been a recurring issue relevant to our operational budget.
- Announced he will prepare a form where anyone can share feedback on things they would like to do differently with respect to that.

**1:43:38 District Manager’s Report** (Debra Markell Kleinert) provided the following update:

- Wished All a Happy New Year.

- Wished all who were not feeling well to feel better.
- Announced that regarding Zoom, we are trying to make it compliant and transparent and have protection in place so we can all be as safe as we can be.
- **DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**
  - No trash, curbside, compost or recycling on Monday January 19, 2026, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
  - Winter schedule began for 2026 snow season
- **PARKS**
  - MULCHFEST to say goodbye to your tree until January 11, 2026. (see flyer) and parks for locations.
  - Torsney will be a chipping site only on Sunday January 11. The other chipping sites, Astoria, Hunters Point South and Travers will be on January 10 and 11.
- **DDC**
  - Installation of catch basin, chutes and manholes
    - In area of Northern Blvd and 58<sup>th</sup> street from 1/12 to 1/16.
    - In area of 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 57<sup>th</sup> Street from 1/12 through 1/16
- The office had approximately 18 original complaints for the month of December.
  - The top complaints were:
    - DOT– POTHOLES, PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS
    - PD – ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES
    - DOS- TRASH, ILEGAL DUMPING
- Announced that she has invited Captain Armani to attend the next City Services & Public Safety Committee Meeting.
- Renewals for Board Membership are as follows:
  - John Bahia, Karesia Batan, Nick Berkowitz, Lisa Charles, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Alexandra Gonzalez, Kenny Greenberg, James Kim, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewadnowski, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Andie Olivares, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Norberto Saldana, Ryan Smith, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas and Michael Zoorob

**1:47:36 Committee Reports:**

**1:47:37 Transportation Committee (Reilly Owens)**

- Announced that Court Square Park is getting pedestrian improvements by the end of this year.
- Attended a DOT webinar where he saw conceptual plans. He discussed some project objectives: pedestrian safety improvements, new public space, modernizing the local street network and upgrade water main and sewer lines. Thomson Avenue at Court Square Park is going to become a one-way to encourage traffic on the arterials.

- Court Square west is going to be a shared street which will be raised up to sidewalk level to discourage drivers from speeding or moving very quickly so there is more pedestrian space. The sidewalks will be remade with more street trees and more permeable surfaces.
- He has spoken to DOT that there are missing crosswalks in our district. Please contact him or the office so this can be sent to DOT to report missing crosswalks.

### **1:51:50 Land Use & Housing (Christine Hunter)**

- Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos announced that Christine Hunter will be stepping down as Land Use & Housing Committee Chair, and Prameet Kumar will be stepping up to Chair, Land Use & Housing Committee.
- Christine Hunter reported that Land Use had a presentation by the architects for the new school in Cour Square at 23-10 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. They are asking for a revocable consent because for the one stairway exit and ramp to go a little bit over the sidewalk more than is currently allowed as of right for accessibility. The revocable consent was approved unanimously by the committee.
- Reported we had a presentation from Parks about the Queens Walk to Parks site selection that is going to be a ULURP process which will probably kick off in February. They will need to come and present to the full board.
- There has been a long-standing request from Phipps for their contractor to get an increased allowability of Saturday construction. They already are allowed to start at 9:00 on Saturdays. They were requesting 7:00 am which was opposed by the Phipps Tenants Council. We asked them to go to the Tenants Council first. The board had a discussion and kind of split the difference. There was a feeling that because this is 100% affordable housing we want to help finish on time and get the project up and running and at the same time respect Phipps.
- We approved extending it only to 8 not to 7 and not allowing any exterior work for trucks to cause noise in that early part of the morning.

### **1:55:54 Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused and Shelter Committee (Lauren Springer)**

- Reported we heard from the Principal of Queens Technical High School Luis Garcia.
- Reported we heard Abbott House Community Partnering who discussed foster parenting as there is a great need for it for fostering teens and sibling groups.
- The next meeting is this Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 pm and it is virtual and our originally scheduled speaker can no longer make it, so we will have a presentation from the Love Mentoring Program at another time.

- Will hear from Live on New York about organ donation and from the New York Blood Center about blood donations.

### **1:57:28 Arts & Cultural Affairs (Karesia Batan)**

- In December we had a lot of lovely arts & cultural institutions. The Sunnyside Shines BID and the LIC Partnership that come and tell us all the wonderful events that are happening. We had a lot of holiday announcements; the partnership is getting ready for the Lunar New Year.
- Announced MoMA PS1 is now free.
- Reported that she had a partnership with the Borough President's Office, convened all the arts & cultural committees across the borough or any committees in community boards in Queens that had arts & cultural affairs underneath their committee. She will share the minutes from that meeting
- There's a lot of investment coming into the borough We passed two major rezonings. We are getting a soccer stadium, we are getting another casino and expanding our first casino, so we want to make sure that this is the time to be heard making sure that economic investment they are also investing in local artists.
- They are bringing guest speakers to come and give us more information about these types of efforts along.
- World Cup and Winter Olympics are all around the corner.
- The next meeting is on Tuesday.
- Announced they will start ramping up on our murals and gates initiative.
- Working with Sunnyside Shines to contact different property owners and businesses to see if we can get more public art up on the walls and on gates.
- Update on Bliss Theater is coming to Land Use this month.

Eric Narburgh added that the HTC Landmark survey is still open through the end of this month. We have only received about a dozen suggestions. Encouraged all to complete the survey.

### **2:02:21 City Services & Public Safety Committee (Danielle Brecker)**

- Announced the next City Services & Public Safety Committee Meeting will take place on January 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm. We are trying to get the captain of the 108<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct to attend.
- Heard from several restaurant owners who are struggling, she encouraged all to support our local businesses.

### **2:02:07 Environment, Parks & Recreation (Carlos Castell Croke)**

- Reported did not have a meeting last month.
- Announced the next meeting will be held on January 22, 2026, where there will be a presentation from Beyond Plastics to talk about legislation they are supporting.

- Announced he would like to have a conversation with his committee about environmental and parks legislation at the state legislature that we can ask our elected officials to support.

#### **2:03:04 Small Business and Local Economy (Morry Galonoy)**

- The committee did not meet last month.
- The next meeting will be held on January 27, 2026, at 5:00 pm, virtual.
- Mentioned that with Health & Human Services, he, Tannia and Lauren went to the Entrepreneur Space which has a commercial kitchen. They are a not-for-profit its part of EDC and are available for any kind of food service businesses to prepare the food. They have check in of shipments.
- For their next meeting they are going to talk about retail incubators and possibly planning an event for a workshop for MWBE certification
- Encouraged all to suggest ideas and they are looking for more committee members.

#### **2:05:10 Engagement & Inclusion (Tannia Chavez)**

- Reported on the successful holiday food drive and thanked Norberto Saldana. We partnered with St. Teresa's Church, St. Raphael's Church and La Hornada. It ended on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- For the Coat and Sock Drive, it was extended until tomorrow.
- Announced the Winter Meet and Greet will be on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Focal Point.
- This is specifically to attract our neighbors and to engage with them and let them know the CB 2 applications are open.
- The next Committee meeting will be held on January 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm, virtual.

#### **2:06:44 Tech Committee (Amaurys Valedéz)**

- Reported he was a part of the initial planning committee for the Queens Tech and Career Fair to be held on January 31, 2026. It will be held at the New York Hall of Science with the Queens Borough President's Office. All are invited to attend.
- Reported he held a meeting with Shiobhan, Sunnyside Community Services and wanted to say thank you.
- Reported that he and the Co-Chair have been trying to reach out to different people in the community to see how we can help them in terms of the Tech Committee.
- He spoke to a few individuals, and we will have some ideas coming out in the next few months. If anyone has any input to reach out to him.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

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