



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

June 4, 2026

Community Board 2 Meeting Summary

This meeting was held in person and teleconference on Zoom

Board Members – Present: Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar, Melissa Aguirre, Cheryl Apicella (PV), Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Karesia Batan, Danielle Brecker, Isabella Bustamante, Carlos Castell Croke, Evelyn Chango, Lisa Charles (PV), Tannia Chavez (PV), Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Kevin Davis, Warren Davis, Morry Galonoy, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Kenneth Greenberg, Leo Guttman, Corey Hannigan (PV), Michelle D. Hernandez, Mohammad Hossen (PV), Christine Hunter, Bradford Leibin, Patrick Martinez, Bill Murray (PV), Eric Narburgh, Mario Nnani, Reilly Owens, Rafael Perez, Pia Rahman, Zaakirah Rahman, Ryan Smith, Lauren Springer, Amaury Valdez, Alaina Van Slooten (PV), Michael Zoorob (PV)

Board Members – Absent

Unexcused: Nicholas Berkowitz, William Jourdain, Alyssa Sawicki, Leticia Vasquez, Zev Wineberg

Excused: Camille Gray, Prameet Kumar, Randy Plemel

Community Board 2 Staff: Rafael Nava, Community Coordinator

Elected Officials / Representatives:

Evelyn Li, Representing Congressmember Grace Meng
Mercedes Jennings, Representing State Senator Michael Gianaris
Isamar Brito, Representing State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won
Carlos Muñoz, Representing Assemblymember Claire Valdez
Laura Shepard, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Joshua Lopez-Braganza, Representing Assemblymember Steven Raga
Jacqueline Rozado, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

City Agency Representatives

Feigele Lechtchiner, DCP

Public Comment

Doug Korman, Charlton D'Souza, David Copperberg, Jonathan Suarez

Guests

David Espinosa, Sunnyside Community Services
Paula Crespo, Senior Planner at the Pratt Center for Community Development

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

Time (Approximate, from Meeting Recording)

YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4LIRCKT9sk&t=894s>

0:01:31 At 6:41 PM, Queens CB2 Chairperson Anatole Ashraf welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests.

0:01:44 **Pledge of Allegiance**

0:02:50 **Evelyn Li, representing Congresswoman [Grace Meng](#)**, provided the following updates:

- Programming information from Congresswoman Meng's office.
- Highlighted legislation introduced or reintroduced by Congresswoman Meng, including a proposal to expand SNAP eligibility to cover hot prepared foods.
- Congresswoman Meng supports extending Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits.

0:05:01 **Mercedes Jennings, representing State Senator [Michael Gianaris](#)**, provided the following updates:

- Announced that New York State passed a \$269 billion budget, which included utility relief and expanded access to child care.
- Highlighted funding dedicated by State Senator Gianaris for local organizations, including United Way, Make the Road New York, and Woodside on the Move.
- Q&A

0:10:40 **Isamar Brito, representing State Senator [Kristen Gonzalez](#)**, provided the following updates:

- The recently passed New York State budget included funding for public renewable energy, sustainability projects, and the Queens Greenway.
- Senator Gonzalez's district office serves as a cooling center during heat emergencies.

00:13:04 **Farah Salam, representing Council Member [Julie Won](#)**, provided the following updates:

- Programming information, including movie nights and an invitation to attend the June 17, 2026, OneLIC Task Force public meeting.
- Legislation introduced by Council Member Won, including Introduction 919, a bill to establish an artificial intelligence oversight office within the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection.
- Changes to SNAP work requirements that took effect June 1.
- Q&A

00:18:58 **Carlos Muñoz, representing Assemblymember [Claire Valdez](#)**, provided the following updates:

- Staff from Assemblymember Valdez's office attended PS 11 Career Day and tabled at the Long Island City Spring Festival.
- Programming information, including a June 10 electronic recycling and textile collection event.

00:20:08 **Laura Shepard, representing Queens Borough President [Donovan Richards](#)**, provided the following update:

- Programming information, including the Borough President’s annual Pride Celebration on June 24 and mobile office hours offering constituent services on June 15 and June 29.
- Acknowledged the fatal crash on the Queensboro Bridge at the end of May and shared the need to prevent similar incidents.

00:22:20 **Jacqueline Rozado, representing Queens District Attorney [Melinda Katz](#)**, provided the following updates:

- Discussed fraud and scams targeting seniors and shared information about the DA’s Financial Frauds Bureau, including its work on investment scams, bank and credit card fraud, and cyber fraud.
- Shared information about the Elder Fraud Unit and its work to protect older adults from financial scams.

00:24:50 **David Espinosa of [Sunnyside Community Services](#)**, provided the following update:

- Programming information, including invitations to attend the Queens Pride Parade on June 7, a candidate forum for the New York State Senate 12th District Democratic primary on June 8, and a recycling event on June 10.

00:26:55 **Feigle Lechtchiner of DCP** provided the following update:

- The 50-02 Queens Boulevard application was certified by the City Planning Commission, with the Community Board’s vote and recommendation due by September 8.

General Public Comment

00:29:42 Doug Korman shared that he developed a detailed proposal for a park to serve Blissville residents and invited people interested in viewing or supporting the proposal to contact him.

00:32:45 Charlton D’Souza raised concerns about wheelchair accessibility at the recently relocated bus stop across from Sunnyside Community Services and offered recommendations to improve safety on the Queensboro Bridge.

00:34:34 David Copperberg raised concerns about the relocated Queens Boulevard bus stop at 39th Street, including that older adults would need to cross what he described as a dangerous bike lane, and voiced support for Priscilla’s Law.

00:35:41 Jonathan Suarez shared an update from the 108th Precinct regarding a 311 request he submitted. DOT will reinstall bollards at the entrances to the Hunters Point South Greenway to prevent vehicles from entering.

00:37:38 OneLIC Oversight Task Force Presentation

Paula Crespo, Senior Planner at the Pratt Center for Community Development, provided a [presentation](#) on the OneLIC Oversight Task Force and the City’s commitments related to the OneLIC Rezoning. She shared the following:

- Background information on the Pratt Center for Community Development and the role of the OneLIC Oversight Task Force.
- The Task Force structure, including the Steering Committee, seven issue-specific committees, Network of Oversight, and upcoming milestones.

- A high-level review of City commitments related to the OneLIC Rezoning across areas including arts and culture, parks and recreation, affordable housing, transportation, infrastructure, small businesses, and education.
- Q&A

1:02:20 **Attendance**

Board Members Present in Person: 31
Board Members Present Virtually: 10

Board Members Excused: 3
Board Members Absent: 7

Quorum: Yes

1:06:52 **Approval of Minutes:**

Anatole Ashraf made a motion to approve the May 7, 2026, Community Board Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by John Bahia. The motion carried with 37 votes in favor and two abstentions.

1:07:30 **Chairperson's Report**

Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, delivered the Chairperson's Report. He shared the following:

- Recognized June holidays and celebrations.
- Provided an update on the District Manager hiring process.
- Noted that Queens Community Board 2 was a co-sponsor of SunnyPride on June 12, 2026.

1:13:06 **Treasurer's Report**

Michael Zoorob, Treasurer, delivered the Treasurer's Report. He shared the following:

- Outreach had begun for the Community Board's annual District Needs Survey and would continue.
- Discussed the operational budget and plans to bring line-item allocations to the Board for review and vote by the September meeting.

1:18:35 **Office Report**

Rafael Nava delivered the Office Report. He shared the following:

- A social services section has been created on the Community Board's website with information on programs and resources available to residents.
- Shared that he looks forward to supporting the incoming District Manager and helping them succeed in serving the Community Board.

1:21:00 **Bylaws Discussion**

Patrick Martinez, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, provided the following update:

- Shared that feedback from the February Community Board meeting was incorporated into the proposed bylaws, including removing language around voting as a slate and requiring the Chairperson to vote.

1:24:07 Stephen Cooper made a motion to approve the proposed bylaws, which was seconded by Carlos Castell Croke. The motion carried with 40 votes in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. [Click here](#) to read the newly adopted bylaws.

1:30:03 The Board then discussed whether to include a Dissenting Opinions section in the bylaws. Carlos Castell Croke made a motion to add the section, which was seconded by Morry Galonoy. Morry later made a motion to table the matter until September, which did not carry. After further discussion, Stephen Cooper made a motion to add a revised version of the section, including a ten-member threshold and one dissenting opinion per Full Board resolution. The motion was seconded by Carlos Castell Croke. The motion did not carry, with 9 votes in favor and 31 opposed, and the section was not adopted into the bylaws.

Committee Reports

2:31:30 **Tannia Chavez, Vice Chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee**, provided a summary of the May Land Use and Housing Committee meeting. The meeting minutes are available at the following link: [Land Use and Housing Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

2:34:26 **Karesia Batan, Chair of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee**, provided a summary of the May Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee meeting. During the meeting, Shushanik Karapetyan, a local artist in the CB2 district, presented her artwork. Click here to view respective meeting materials: [the May Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee meeting recording](#), [DCLA presentation](#), and [Shushanik's artwork](#).

2:36:50 **Danielle Brecker, Co-Chair of the City Services and Public Safety Committee**, shared that representatives from SLA would attend the June City Services and Public Safety Committee meeting.

2:39:00 **Morry Galonoy, Chair of the Small Business and Local Economy Committee**, shared that the Small Business and Local Economy Committee did not meet in May and that its next meeting was scheduled for June 23, 2026.

2:39:50 **Amaurys Valdez, Chair of the Tech Subcommittee**, provided the following updates:

- Shared tech-related updates, including that he served as a judge at a hackathon with Pursuit.org, and invited community members to attend upcoming events.
- Shared that Bryan Somar of the New York State Homeland Security Services Incident Response Team provided a cybersecurity presentation at the May Engagement, Inclusion and Tech Committee meeting.

2:42:16 **Carlos Castell Croke, Chair of the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee**, provided a summary of the May Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. The meeting minutes are available at the following link: [Environment, Parks, and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

2:43:36 **Reilly Owens, Chair of the Transportation Committee**, provided a summary of the June Transportation Committee meeting. The meeting minutes are available at the following link: [Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion to adjourn was made by Anatole Ashraf.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Nava

Reviewed / Revised and approved by

X Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB2

X Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB2