



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYqwww

December 2, 2021

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Board Members – Present: Amparo Abel-Bey, Anatole Ashraf, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Sandra Bigitschke, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Jake DeGroot, Lisa Deller, Sally Frank, Morry Galonoy, William Garrett, Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Benjamin Guttmann, Christine Hunter, Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas, Clara Oza, Karla Perez, Steven Raga, Selena Romero, Norberto Saldana, Regina Shanley, Laura Shepard, Lauren Springer, Mary Torres, Anthony Tudela, John Vaichunas, Adrienne Verilli, Frank Wu

Board Members – Absent: Kat Bloomfield, Johanna Carmona, Gianna Cerbone, Somnath Ghimire, Mohammed Jewel, Badrun Khan, Dominic Lippolis, Kristen McGowan, Taina McShane, Eliot Park, Katherine Sabal, Julie Won

Community Board 2 Staff: Debra Markell Kleinert (District Manager), MaryAnn Gurrado

Elected Officials/Representatives

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NYS Senator Michael Gianaris
Kevin Ryan, Representing Council Member Robert Holden
Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer
Kahleel Bragg, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Mary Jobaida, Representing NYS Senator Jessica Ramos
James Mongeluzo, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

NYC Department of City Planning

Teal Delys

Guests

Andrea Thompson, Sunnyside Community Services
Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move
Jason Estudillo, CB2 Intern and Student, LaGuardia Community College
Clara Londono, Elmhurst Hospital

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

[You Tube Video](#) of this meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyichD50WwM>

(Approximate time stamps provided in these minutes refer to this video)

[Transcript](#) in Block Party archive

Time (Approximate, from YouTube Video)

00:02:24 At **6:33 PM**, CB2Q Chairperson Morry Galonoy welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests.

00:03:27 **Pledge of Allegiance.**

The chairperson reminded all to be respectful and to mute themselves when they are not talking. Board Members have priority speaking. Non-board members may reserve time to speak in the Public Comment part of the meeting. The sign-up link will be put in the chat. He is scheduling Public Comment earlier in the meeting.

00:07:04 **Kevin Ryan, Representing Council Member Holden** – He is Director of Communications. They are planning toy and food drives, and a street re-naming for Councilmember Thomas Ognibene

00:09:03 **Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez** – discussed legislation and included the following in the chat: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact>

Our next town hall is on Dec 17, please sign up for our newsletter to get updates:

English Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>

Spanish Newsletter: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/boletin-espanol>

Disaster Legal Services: (888) 399-5459 or nysba.org/ida

Child Tax Credit and NYC Free Tax Prep:

English - <https://www.getctc.org/nyc>

Spanish - <https://www.getctc.org/es/nyc>

NYC Free Tax Prep - <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-your-taxes.page>

Internship Application: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/internships>

00:12:01 **Ernie Brooks, representing Honorable Carolyn Maloney, US Congresswoman** – For constituent services call 212-860-0606 or go to Maloney.house.gov. The congresswoman met with the incoming council members; working on how to use anticipated funds from infrastructure bill; her office can help with FEMA applications. She is concerned that the Opportunity Zones need updating (<https://astoriapost.com/lucrative-state-tax-break-that-benefited-developers-comes-to-an-end-gianaris>) Opportunity zone map (<https://cartocdn-gusc-c.global.ssl.fastly.net/chpc-admin/api/v1/map/chpc-admin@cb2b54de@9b8293429b632482432374d7cd0d8d80:1595533810486/1,2,3,8/14/4825/6157.png>)

00:19:50 **Mary Jobaida representing State Senator Jessica Ramos** (718) 205-3881
RamosConstituentServicesTeam@gmail.com. We request constituents to call our office to

make an appointment before coming to the office. Planning to have toy drive on December 18, 2021

00:21:10 **James Mongeluzo representing Scott Stringer NYC Comptroller** 646-689-6509 / jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov

Comptroller Stringer: Annual Making the Grade Report Reveals City Fails to do Business with More Than 80 Percent of M/WBES - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-annual-making-the-grade-report-reveals-city-fails-to-do-business-with-more-than-80-percent-of-m-wbes/>

Comptroller Stringer Releases Analysis of Remote Work's Impact on New York City Sales Tax Revenue - Comptroller Stringer Releases Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-releases-fiscal-year-2021-annual-comprehensive-financial-report/>

New York City Comptroller Stringer Releases Fiscal Year 2021 Popular Annual Financial Report - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/new-york-city-comptroller-stringer-releases-fiscal-year-2021-popular-annual-financial-report/>

Full Report - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/popular-annual-financial-reports/>

00:28:20 **Kahleel Bragg, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards** - Advisor on Community Engagement - Cure Violence/Sports Outreach, kbragg@queensbp.org, 718-286-2853, Queensbp.org/rsvp. They are planning holiday events and Borough Board Meeting.

00:30:51 **Jack Bernatovicz, Representing Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer** – yielded to the Councilmember who will present later.

00:31:05 **Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move** - Housing Legal Clinic will not meet in December. Next one is in January. <https://forms.gle/WpdxSc83QaeCUaB8A>

00:33:38 **Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris** - Community services: working on getting second COVID doses in schools, also on local testing and vaccination sites. Athens Park Vaccine Mobile Van (file:///var/mobile/Library/SMS/Attachments/ac/12/56889D81-4C92-4A21-840E-24A20FEE073E/IMG_9775.jpeg) until 12/5/2021 from 8am-7pm, walk-ins are welcome. They do both Rapid and PCR testing.

00:43:08 **Clara Londono, Assistant Director Community Affairs Elmhurst Hospital.** cell 332-215-3173 e mail Londonoc1@nychhc.org. On behalf of the hospital she would like to be more involved in the community. They offer free services for COVID and flu vaccination, and COVID testing.

00:48:22 **Andrea Thompson, Representing Sunnyside Community Services** -served over 175 seniors on Thanksgiving; two of their programs will be moving to the new TF Cornerstone building in LIC; social adult in person meetings have resumed.

00:51:40 **Jason Estudillo, Intern at CB2Q office until June 2022.** Welcome!

00:58:26 **Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer** – addressed CB2Q on the occasion of the final board meeting of his tenure, summarizing his accomplishments and receiving many expressions of appreciation.

Public Comment

01:54:22 **Rachel Ferster** - supporting NYS Assembly bill A6167 <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A6167> School personnel to be trained in responding to anaphylaxis, especially in light of increasing child food allergies.

01:55:55 **Joe Lobello** thanking Councilmember Van Bramer and the DOT for the Bike Boulevard, appreciates increased art-related events, concerned about support of mutual aids and local businesses.

02:02:31 **Patricia Dorfman** has concerns but deferring discussion. States that she feels unheard and vilified.

02:04:37 **Manny Gomez** postponing his statement of concerns regarding the Bike Boulevard; critical of Councilmember Van Bramer; feeling ignored.

02:08:44 **William Franke** supporting resumption of curbside organics collections.

02:15:30 **Melissa Bair** – There is no place in CB2Q for a woman to give birth:..urges everyone to support midwifery-run birthing centers. <https://bit.ly/midwiferybirthcentersny>. The bills A259a/S1414a. <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A259/amendment/A> have been passed in both the NYS Assembly and Senate. Gov Hochul must sign them before the end of the year to make them law. Individual letters of support can be sent before the end of the year to Gov. Hochul at <https://p2a.co/0QTQQN8>. Melissa will be invited to attend the 12/13 Health, Human Services and Education committee to develop a supportive statement on behalf of CB2Q and submitted to the Executive Committee which can approve and send it to the Governor while she still has time to sign the bill into law.

02:22:00 **Seth Slade** - supports initiatives to increase public involvement especially public members on committees. Feels this issue was promised to be addressed by now. Not happy with current expectation of bylaws revision in June 2022.

Attendance

02:43:39 Board Members Present **35**; Absent **12** Quorum: yes

02:49:39 Secretary Gianutsos explained the new format for the minutes based on the principle that they should convey what was done and not what was said. The time stamps facilitate locating particular sections in the YouTube Video on CB2Q's YouTube Channel.

02:58:05 **Approval of the November 4, 2021 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes** –

Amparo Abel-Bey made a motion, seconded by Laura Shepard to:

MOTION: approve the November 4, 2021 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes and the new format. All were in favor of approving the minutes with none opposed and no abstentions..

03:08:42 **Chairperson's Report (Morry Galonoy)** - Our new chair asked forbearance. He introduced the new Executive Committee, discussed community events and the new format of the minutes, encouraging all to please like and subscribe to the YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYqwww. Twitter coming soon An important goal for him is to increase engagement. Towards that end he is establishing a Task Force for Outreach and would like to hear from all who want to join.

03:18:22 **District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)** –Sending holiday greetings. Reminds all about collections of leaves for composting on Dec. 11th. Deadline for FEMA claims ends December 6, 2021. Office is increasing postings on CB2Q website (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/index.page>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/QueensCB2>).

03:20:20 **Department of City Planning (Teal Delys)** – encourages people to check out their new website: www.goodurbandesign.nyc. DOT is to do public engagement and create new rules before Sidewalk Dining Text Amendment can be approved; DCP presenting at the Borough Board 12/16.

03:35:28 **Land Use Committee (Lisa Deller / Christine Hunter)** -reviewing last two parcels with HPD.(B&D) in Hunters Point South; Street renaming proposal for 39th Road and 52nd St.

03:43:02 **Transportation Committee (Sheila Lewandowski)** – 108th attending their meetings regularly; expressed appreciation for the work of DOT; wants to involve agencies other than DOT; Larry Gallegos of MTA to speak at their 12/7 meeting.

03:49:17 **Arts & Cultural Committee (Karesia Batan)** Committee heard from Sunnyside Artists; Tibetan Center in Woodside which is re-opening; an art installation proposal; Turkish Cultural festival. A&C Submit Events: <https://bit.ly/submitcb2event>; A&C webpage with grant resources etc: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/arts-culture-events.page>; CB2 Events Calendar: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/calendar/calendar.page>

03:53:40 **City Services and Public Safety Committee –(Stephen Cooper)** Approving liquor licenses, including their first to allow opening to 4AM (on a roof top, unlikely to disturb neighbors)

03:55:05 **Health and Human Services & Education – (Lauren Springer)** had guest speakers from The Child Center which will move to a new building in Woodside and will expand its child and families outpatient behavioral health services; will add on-site medical services; will continue telehealth services.

04:00:00 **Environment Committee (Frank Wu)** – (no report)

04:00:01 **Tech Committee (Anatole Ashraf)** – (no report)

Comment

04:00:26 **Nick Berkowitz** wishing to acknowledge the passing of Vincenzo Cerbone, father of Board Member Gianna Cerbone, and who, with his wife Ida, began and operated Manducatis Restaurant in LIC. He extends condolences to the family.

04:02:11 **Laura Shephard** announced that she has QSWAB (Queens Solid Waste Advisory Board) reports to share.

Meeting Adjourned

04:03:02 **Steven Cooper** moved, and **Christine Hunter** seconded that

MOTION: the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at **10:34** PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

Reviewed / revised and approved for distribution by
Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary
Morry Galonoy, Chairperson