



*Donovan Richards*  
*Queens Borough President*

## Community Board No. 2

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*Morry Galonoy*  
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YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYgwww>

**March 3, 2022**

### **Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members – Present:** Amparo Abel-Bey, Anatole Ashraf, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Sandra Bigitschke, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Jake DeGroot, Lisa Deller, Sally Frank, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Benjamin Guttmann, Christine Hunter, Mohammed Choudhury Jewel, Sheila Lewandowski, Kristen McGowan, Thomas Mituzas, Clara Oza, Karla Perez, Steven Raga, Norberto Saldana, Regina Shanley, Lauren Springer, Mary Torres, Anthony Tudela, Frank Wu

**Board Members – Absent:** Gianna Cerbone, William Garrett, Badrun Khan, Dominic Lippolis, Elliot Park, Selena Romero, Katherine Sabal, John Vaichunas

**Board Members – Excused:** Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Laura Shepard

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

#### **Elected Officials/Representatives**

Council Member Julie Won

Kevin Kiprovski Legislative & Communications Director for Council Member Julie Won

Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Ernie Brooks, Representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Craig Caruana, Representing Council Member Robert Holden

Mercedes Jennings, Representing State Senator Michael Gianaris

Kahleel Bragg, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

James Mongeluzo, representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

#### **NYC Department of City Planning**

Teal Delys

#### **Guests**

Jonathan Miller, Sunnyside Community Services

Helen Arteaga, CEO, Elmhurst Hospital

John McMillan, TF Cornerstone

Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move

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

*Note: Reference to the You Tube video and the associated 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

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

Link to [Block Party archive](#) where you can navigate to a transcript of this meeting.

**Time (Approximate, from YouTube Video)**

00:00:25 **Pledge of Allegiance.**

00:00:58 At 6:31 PM, CB2Q Chairperson Morry Galonoy welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests. He noted that we are fortunate to be here and able to disagree, in contrast to the events in Ukraine.

00:06:00 **Mercedes Jennings, representing State Senator Michael Gianaris** – Contact: Tel.: 646-598-8583 The senator has been working on legislation relating to the sharp recent increases in Con-Edison bills. He has been fighting to get federal funding for the ERAP program especially for low-income individuals. The “Tinder Swindler” bill which he sponsored has been signed into law. It is designed to protect individuals who have been swindled in on-line dating by requiring banks to warn customers about potential romantic scams.

00:08:46 **Ernie Brooks, representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney** – Contact: Tel.: 212-860-0606 or visit [Rep. Maloney constituent services](#). The congresswoman has focused on the Ukraine situation and had a press-conference with local Ukrainians. She is working on the bipartisan efforts at reform of the postal service. The congresswoman continues to work at gun control through cutting off the flow of weapons into our city and to address the increases in Con Edison charges. She welcomes the start of reliable fossil-free power from Hydro-Quebec. This should allow us to finally shut down the large polluting power stations we have here. Congresswoman Maloney Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) and MDIs for low income persons.

00:12:50 **Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** – Contact: Tel.: 718-662-5970 or visit Representative Ocasio-Cortez's website. Our office is now open for walk-ins 9-5 M-Th. To be notified about our next town hall, please sign up for our newsletter English or Spanish. Submit a casework request or legislative comments and general questions. The congresswoman signed a [bipartisan letter to the president urging congressional approval before any military action in Ukraine](#). She also supported sanctions on Putin and the oligarchs. Redistricting has resulted in adding portions of LIC and Maspeth to her district and losing some of Woodside. The congresswoman has been working on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) submitting local

proposals for abandoned barge removal from Flushing and Eastchester Bays, wetland restoration and oyster propagation near LaGuardia Airport, and restoration of the LaGuardia breakwall. Tax season has begun: New Yorkers can use NYC Free Tax Prep services including, In-person Tax Prep, Drop-off Service, Virtual Tax Prep, and Assisted Self-Prep to file taxes free. Learn more at [NYC Free Tax Prep](#), Taxpayers who received the advance child tax credit or received a stimulus check last year should receive correspondence from the IRS with more information on how to accurately file their upcoming return. Save this letter and use it during filing.

00:15:43 **Council Member Julie Won** – Contact: Email: [District26@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District26@council.nyc.gov) Tel.: 718-383-9566. CM Won highlighted that this is budget season at the Council. In her role as Chair of the Contracts Committee she will be vigilant in negotiations. This is a time for capital and discretionary funding and she is glad that local nonprofits have applied. They will be including schools and parks. She is communicating with the 108<sup>th</sup> precinct and will address public safety issues, shelters and transportation changes. They will be offering personal safety training. In the last month they addressed 150 constituent requests. While they are working mostly remotely, they will also make appointments for in-person meetings. She addressed several questions from the board regarding street safety on 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, safety near school entrances, budget cuts to the adult homeless services, community development fund cuts, a need for technical assistance and resources for small minority-owned businesses.

00:34:28 **Kahleel Bragg, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards** – Advisor on Community Engagement - Cure Violence/Sports Outreach Contact: Email: [kbragg@queensbp.org](mailto:kbragg@queensbp.org), Tel.: 718-286-2853, Anyone wanting to attend special events can: [RSVP to Queens Borough President Office's Special Events](#). Kahleel Bragg stated community board applications are now under review.

00:35:28 **Craig Caruana, Representing Council Member Holden** – As chair of the City Council's Veterans Committee the councilmember met with veteran's groups regarding budget cuts, especially the Borden Ave Veterans Shelter, which he is planning to visit. Concerning the situation in Ukraine, the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union is accepting donations to the John Paul II Foundation for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. They will be sponsoring an e-recycling event at Maspeth Federal Savings Bank parking lot on 4/23 from 12 to 4 PM. Another will be at Rosemary's Playground 752 Fairview Ave in Ridgewood on 3/26 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Open Data week 3/5 to 3/13 and they have contributed to Beta NYC technology proposals for the new mayor. To promote early breast cancer awareness: a mammogram bus will be at Maspeth Federal Savings Bank 3/30 9 AM – 4:30 PM. In response to board members: We are also encouraged us to reach out to the [NYC Veterans Advisory Board](#). They just found out that going forward the DHS (Department of Homeless Services) will be sending a representative to their meetings. Board members urge the shelters, especially the Borden Ave. Veterans Shelter, to engage with the Community Advisory Boards. There is new leadership of ICL (Institute for Community Living) which operates that shelter.

00:46:28 **James Mongeluzo, Representing Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller** Contact: Tel.: 646-689-6509. Email: [jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov) Their office has come up with a [federal stimulus fund tracker](#) and also an audit of the [Department of Consumer Affairs and Worker Protection's Response to Price Gouging on Essential Products](#) which found a delay and lack of on-site response, while acknowledging that these agencies were not prepared to deal with this unexpected situation.

00:48:55 **Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move** – Their [office](#) is open by appointment. They continue to hold a [Monthly Housing Legal Clinic \(Zoom link\)](#). They are planning an Easter egg hunt in March and a prom pop-up show with their Beacon program on April 30th.

00:50:35 **Jonathan Miller, Representing Sunnyside Community Services** – Now enrolling for free pre-school programming for three- and four-year-old children for next year. Because of a recent armed robbery at a nearby Dollar Tree store, there will be an increased police presence.

#### **Guest Speaker**

00:52:12 **Helen Arteaga, CEO, Elmhurst Hospital** Due to a misunderstanding, Ms. Arteaga did not realize that she was our guest speaker and, accordingly, did not have a formal presentation. She will be rescheduled but was invited to offer remarks at this time also: She is grateful for CB2Q's support of the hospital. They did over 100,000 vaccinations and 120,000 testings. The hospital has 4200 employees who succeeded in caring for patients both during the first COVID wave and during the recent Omicron wave. She is here for Elmhurst Hospital as a resource to the community. Chairperson Galonoy described his fast and efficient experience getting tested at Elmhurst. Thomas Mituzas expressed gratitude for the care his great aunt is receiving right now there. Anatole Ashraf reported a positive experience his two year old received there. Lauren Springer asked about plans for expanding the ED. They have 57 pods but get an average of 100 patients. New funding will allow expansion. They will also be getting a new machine to advance cardiac care. During the construction period there will be some disruption. There is a new community site on 73<sup>rd</sup> and Roosevelt. The board would be interested in local expansion. Ms. Arteaga will be receptive to such proposals.

#### **01:08:42 Public Comment**

01:09:29 **Patricia Malewich** - concerned about an air quality condition in Long Island City at 10-40 45<sup>th</sup> Road. In this building they are producing food, but she thinks they are not following rules for sanitation and ventilation. She and her neighbors have called 311 and DOB. The odor keeps them from enjoying the park and their back yards. What further can be done? The District Manager (DM) offered to follow up with state agencies. Also contact Councilmember (CM) Won's office.

01:14:48 **Mohammad Hossen** – is grateful to the doctors and nurses at Elmhurst Hospital; however the Emergency Room needs improvement.

01:16:49 **Public Hearing**

01:17:02 **FDNY - minor modification for restoration for the Bureau of Fleet Services**, David Harney and Mark Aronberg presenting. Presentation of a minor modification for restoration for the bureau of Fleet Services. The discussion includes vehicle repair function which was in a city-owned site at 55-30 58th Street (Queens Block 2573, Lot 24) and 52,000 square feet of vacant (leased) land at 58-80 Borden Avenue (Queens Block 2657, part of lot 28) to store ambulances, EMS command vehicles, and vehicles to be commissioned, maintained, repaired, decommissioned, or (due to accidents) held pending litigation.

01:25:20 **DOT Revocable Consent for 52-03 Center Blvd**, presented by Jon McMillan of TF Cornerstone, describing temporary flood mitigation barriers for 52-03 Center Blvd, Hunters Point South (Long Island City.) At issue is the area on 2<sup>nd</sup> St on the back (not water-facing) side. While Center St was elevated above the flood plain when it was built, the already-existing 2<sup>nd</sup> St is not. Retail spaces on 2<sup>nd</sup> St with entry at street level require flood mitigation. Flood barriers would be in the public sidewalk. Permission from DOT is required to strengthen the sidewalk to hold the barriers, which would go out only in the event of extreme flooding. Questions were raised about plans for egress at street level vs alternative designs, efficacy of temporary barriers, seeking consent after building is designed and built, triggers for deployment.

02:16:36 **Attendance** Board Members Present 31 Absent 11 Excused 3 Quorum: yes

02:21:00 Chairperson Galonoy announced a transition from the portion of the meeting during which the public can participate to the board business session where the public can observe the Board discussing and deliberating board business.

02:21:30 **Motion** Amparo Abel-Bey moved as follows, seconded by Sheila Lewandowski to approve the Feb 3, 2022 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes.

**Motion carried:** All in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

02:22:20 **Chairperson's Report (Morry Galonoy)** – The chairperson expressed wishes for the recovery from a serious injury of the PS/IS 78 music teacher "Mister G." who is the son of board member Rosamond Gianutsos. The DM and Chairperson attended the LIC BID (Business Improvement District) board meeting. The Chairperson attended the Build the Block meetings within the 108<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Chairperson Galonoy invited people to attend the St. Pats for All parade on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It was the last community event before the pandemic, and it represents a return to normalcy. The Tech Committee and the

Engagement and Inclusion committee are working on the first issue of our CB2 newsletter. Please [subscribe](#). Meetings are now being live-streamed on YouTube. Please [subscribe to our YouTube channel](#). Once we have over 100 subscribers we will be entitled to have a simpler name. Regarding complaints and calls to the CB2Q office: Of the 33 complaints, 31 were closed. Topping the list were: abandoned cars, potholes, damaged signage, clogged sewers and complaints about unhoused people. The chairperson hopes the Tech Committee will find an understandable way to report on the district's 311 complaints. He reminds committee chairs to work on their mission statements and to identify stakeholders in the community. The By-laws task force will have two more working meetings which the public can view. Department of City Planning is conducting trainings for board members on land use review (ULURP and environmental) are scheduled for March 29 and 30 from 6 to 9 PM. Remember to move clocks ahead. Finally, acknowledging Women's History Month and St. Patrick's Day.

**02:29:20 District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)** – Appreciates the help of the Tech Committee and the Engagement and Inclusion Task Force. CB2 is working together and planning to provide an on-line complaint form. CB 2 continues to revamp the web page and continues to post information to social media. Some of the top complaints with CB 2 are Homelessness which is a significant concern of the community, as are sanitation complaints relating to animal (dog) waste and rats. Please reach out to the board office to voice concerns and let us know of any issues and complaints within CB 2. Chairperson Galonoy stated and noted that unhoused people are members of the community: they are our neighbors.

**02:36:21 Department of City Planning (Teal Delys)** – Teal provided information about the land use trainings, which are open only to community board members. In addition to land use and environmental modules, there will also be one on urban design. Second, she encourages people to look at the DCP and HPD's new [Equitable Development Data Tool](#). They are seeking feedback. Open Restaurants was officially adopted by the City Council – implementation pending rule development. CB2Q can expect the following land use matters in the next months: 20-19 Queens Plaza South (22 story enlargement of the Eagle Electric building), 58-02 Northern Blvd (auto dealership), DEP facility at 39-15 Skillman, and a DOT proposal for 47-25 34<sup>th</sup> St known as The Hub.)

**02:43:10 Land Use Committee (Lisa Deller, Christine Hunter)** – (1) The Fire Department proposal creates much need space for the Fire Dept. The committee voted unanimously to approve the application.

**Motion:** Sheila Lewandowski made a motion which Kenny Greenberg seconded for the full board to approve the Fire Department proposal. **Motion Approved** Unanimously by show of hands.

**02:51:11 (2) .DOT Revokable Consent:** TF Cornerstone seeks a letter of no objection to their plan to put temporary flood barriers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street sidewalk at the rear of their building at 52-01 Center Blvd. There will be commercial tenants with entrances on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, which is below the flood grade. While members support flood mitigation; however, many concerns were expressed

about the lack of alternatives, the late stage of this proposal and the precedent this will set for other developers.

**Motion:** Morry Galonoy made a motion which Christine Hunter seconded for the full board to (1) refuse to issue a letter of no objection and (2) state its support for flood mitigation in general. Queens Community Board 2 is opposed to this proposed plan and the procedure with which it was presented.

The motion **passed by a roll call vote** with 29 Yes, 0 No, and 1 Abstained):

**Yes:** Amparo Abel-Bey, Czarinna Andres, Anatole Ashraf, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Sandra Bigitschke, Kat Bloomfield, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Jake DeGroot, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Rosamond Gianutsos, Kenneth Greenberg, Christine Hunter, Mohammed Jewel, Sheila Lewandowski, Kristen McGowan, Thomas Mituzas, Clara Oza, Karla Perez, Steven Raga, Norberto Saldana, Regina Shanley, Lauren Springer, Mary Torres, Anthony Tudela, Frank Wu

**No:**

**Abstain:** Camille Gray

03:14:02 **City Services** did not meet this month. Next meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

03:14:35 **Arts & Culture Committee** (Karesia Batan) MOMA PS1 came to speak about the mural at their entrance. The first one is expected in the fall. Then they will work toward painting the other walls around their property. Queens Council for the Arts joined us to introduce their new interim director, Rodney Fuller. They are interested in activating their new space in LIC, as well as virtual programming. They are planning a listening tour throughout the borough. The A&C Committee discussed challenges that muralists have getting their work up on the wall, specifically insurance and certification. It is continuing its outreach particularly to community centers and houses of worship

03:18:12 **Transportation Committee (Sheila Lewandowski, Thomas Mituzas)** – The committee considered a letter drafted by Laura Shepard to be sent to the chair of the City Council Transportation Committee. The letter is requesting DOT to expedite the pedestrian walkway on the south side of the bridge.

**Motion:** Amparo Abel-Bey made a motion which was seconded for the full board to approve and send this letter to expedite the completion of the pedestrian walkway on the south of the 59<sup>th</sup> St bridge. **Motion Approved** Unanimously by show of hands.

The committee is working on a letter advocated for by Kristin McGowan for traffic calming / pedestrian safety measures around schools, daycare centers, senior centers, and hospitals. The letter will be finalized and reviewed next month. It would be sent to DOT, the mayor and our councilmember(s). The committee also obtained further information about what types of electric bikes are legal and are working out ways to disseminate this information. DOT made a presentation on the protected bike lane on 34<sup>th</sup> Ave from Broadway to 69<sup>th</sup> St. The committee was in support.

03:25:40 **Environment Committee (Frank Wu)** Newtown Creek Alliance and LIC Roots community gardens asked for support around the deteriorating roadway conditions around 29<sup>th</sup> St and 47<sup>th</sup> Ave with

the collapsing bulkhead near LaGuardia Community College. The committee is working on a letter of support. A second speaker was from Department of Environmental Protection. They talked about upgrading a pump station near combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The committee was disappointed that there was nothing mitigating grey water processing and asked them to come back in two months with a proposal to address this issue.

03:30:42 **Tech Committee (Anatole Ashraf)** –. No meeting last month. Chairperson Ashraf continues to work on the digital newsletter. Working with DOITT on website update. They have improved the page with [meeting agendas and minutes](#). Chairperson Ashraf underwent training to become an Open Data Ambassador. He hopes to facilitate Open Data 101 sessions.

03:32:34 **Health and Human Services & Education – (Lauren Springer)** Andrea Thomas from Sunnyside Community Services updated the community on their activities. They are slowly transitioning back to in-person service twice a week. Their home care training program will be moving to LIC in April, and they are looking for participants. Clara Londondo talked about Elmhurst Hospital's testing and outreach efforts to the community. She would like to be informed about health issues so she can work with us in the community. She emphasized that Elmhurst offers much more than emergency service. We began a discussion about our committee's mission statement, goals, and community stakeholders. Chairperson Springer alerted the committee to a virtual hearing to be held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regarding [mayoral control of the NYC public schools](#).

03:35:30 **Jake DeGroot** spoke on his decision to step down from the board to make room for others. He has enjoyed working with CB 2. While he still has a business in the district, he no longer resides here. Many members thanked Jake for his active efforts on behalf of the board, especially helping to advance our use of technology. The board extended best wishes to Jake on his future endeavors. Chairperson Galonoy said that our board is losing an engaged contributor and hopes that less active members will be inspired to increase their engagement.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

03:40:58 **Motion:** Lisa Deller moved, and Sheila Lewandowski seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion Carried:** The meeting adjourned at 10:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

Reviewed / revised and approved for distribution by

☒ Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

☒ Morry Galonoy, Chairperson

☒ Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager