



*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

an02@ch.nyc.

*Morry Galonoy*  
Chairperson

*Debra Markell Kleinert*  
District Manager

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYqwww>

**April 7, 2022**

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

**Board Members – Present:** Anatole Ashraf, John Laurence Bahia, Nicholas Berkowitz, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Kelly Craig, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Benjamin Guttmann, Christine Hunter, Chhemang Lama, Benjamin Lucas, Patrick Martinez, Kristen McGowan, Robert Miraglia, Thomas Mituzas, Reilly Owens, Clara Oza, Karla Perez, Steven Raga, Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Phuntsok Tashi, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres, Anthony Tudela, Frank Wu

#### **Board Members – Absent**

**Unexcused:** Sandra Bigitschke, Kat Bloomfield, Gianna Cerbone, William Garrett, Somnath Ghimire, Mohammed Choudhury Jewel, Elliot Park, Selena Romero, Katherine Sabal

**Excused:** Amparo Abel-Bey, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Stephen Cooper, Sally Frank, Badrun Khan, Sheila Lewandowski, Lauren Springer

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

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

Assemblymember Cathy Nolan

Farah Salam, District Manager 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

Fred Kreizman, Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Ido Shargal, Queens liaison, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Marlon Palacios, representing Queens District Attorney

Jeff Kohn, Patrol Borough Queens North

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

Teal Delys

#### **Guests**

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

Victoria Medelius, Sunnyside Community Services  
Judy Zangwell, Sunnyside Community Services  
Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move

Guest Speaker  
Helen Arteaga, CEO, Elmhurst Hospital

*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)**

00:00:20 At 6:30 PM, Queens CB2 Chairperson Morry Galonoy welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests. Welcome, especially to new members who have joined the board.

00:05:40 **Pledge of Allegiance.**

00:06:45 **Fred Kreizman, Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit** – Commissioner Kreizman introduced himself and, Ido Shargal Queens Director. The Commissioner values community boards and stated he is looking forward to working with all the Queens District Managers and community boards. The Commissioner welcomed all the new members and is appreciative of all board members who volunteer on behalf of the community. Commissioner Kreizman stated he has known and worked closely with District Manager Debra Markell Kleinert for many years, and she knows how to get things done. He looks forward to continuing working together to resolve issues within the CB 2 Community.

00:10:18 **Mercedes Jennings, representing State Senator Michael Gianaris** – Contact: Tel.: 646-598-8583 Senator Gianaris is in Albany working on finalizing the budget.

00:12:33 **Ernie Brooks, representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney** – Contact: Tel.: 212-860-0606 or visit [Rep. Maloney constituent services](#). Congresswoman Maloney is in Washington working on measures to end all US government business with Russia. Today the president signed her bill which will extend the solvency of the US Postal Service. With the Oversight Committee, she is also working on measures to combat abusive pharmaceutical practices, also to put a hold on the US Postal Service which has placed an order for 500,000 fossil fuel trucks, rather than more climate-friendly ones. Within the district she is still working on closing down the fossil-fuel power plants.

00:16:15 **Daniel Bonthius, Representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** – Contact: Tel.: 718-662-5970 or visit Representative Ocasio-Cortez's website. Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's office is now open for walk-ins from 9-5 Monday through Thursday. They will send out a notification about our next town hall. Please sign up for The Congresswoman's newsletter which is in either English or Spanish. Daniel stated to submit a casework request or legislative comments and general questions. The Congresswoman is planning another Town Hall in Astoria in April. All 10 of the community budget projects were funded. Included is \$400,000 for a violence intervention program at Jacobi Hospital, \$800,000 for an offshore wind energy workforce development program at SUNY Maritime, \$3,000,000 for a new obstetrics wing at Elmhurst Hospital, Sunnyside Community Services received funding for College Access Program and their Home Health Aide program. Emerald Isle Immigration Center received funding for workforce development. Applications for next year's projects are due by the 15<sup>th</sup>. They are also accepting applications until April 29th for the annual Congressional Art contest. Winners' art will be displayed in the US Capitol. Tax season is on us: 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.

00:19:40 **Ernie Brooks, representing Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney** added that their office is also accepting Congressional Artwork contest submissions, and they are funding a number of projects in our district, and are looking forward to receiving applications for this year. The Restaurant Revitalization Program passed the house at \$43 billion.

00:22:13 **Assembly Member, Catherine Nolan** – reported progress over the budget. The Assembly Member thanked community members for their expressions of concern during her recent illness. Assemblywoman Nolan discussed the following: (1) a series of attacks in Queens Plaza and windows smashed in Hunters Point affecting small businesses. She is working with the 108<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, (2) The closing of the Rite Aid store on Greenpoint Ave which has unionized workers, (3) She was concerned about the increased taxes at the City Lights building. She mentioned the Hunters Point Community Forum to be held with 108<sup>th</sup> Precinct on Wednesday April 13, 2022, at 5PM.

00:27:28 **Craig Caruana, Representing Council Member Holden** – Contact: Tel.: 718-366-3900- Announced as of Monday they moved into their new office, located at 58-38 69th Street, Maspeth. Councilman Holden will be sponsoring a Helmet give-away for kids 4/9/ 2022. Craig announced the mammogram bus at Maspeth Federal Savings 4/13/2022 – mention you will need to call the Councilmember Holden's office for an appointment. He announced an Easter Egg Hunt in Juniper Valley Park Saturday 4/16/2022 from 12 to 3 PM. Councilmember Holden visited the Borden Ave Veterans Shelter last week. He learned that there are concerns about food. Some veterans are

living in “modules” – which he believes is an approach that works well. The Councilman will be returning for another visit with Councilmember Julie Won.

00:31:51 **Farah Salam, representing Council Member Julie Won** – Contact: Email: [District26@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District26@council.nyc.gov) Tel.: 718-383-9566. Farah Salam announced the One-on-one legal screenings that will be available at the council member’s office. They expect this will occur twice monthly. Details to follow. Farah announced their will be a community clean-up in Dutch Kills, 10 AM, 4/16/2022. Their office is working with LIC Partnership to provide support for businesses affected by 4 burglaries in Long Island City, and with the 108th Police Precinct. She announced satellite office hours at Queensbridge Houses 4/19/2022 and will be co-hosting an EID food distribution 4/29/2022. Planning to join Council Member Holden in visit to Borden Ave. Veterans’ Shelter. Farah mentioned Council Member Won introduced two pieces of legislation focusing on increasing language accessibility. Council Member Won has voiced concerns to DOT about the delay in opening the South Outer roadway of the Queensborough bridge, resulting in dangerous pedestrian – bicyclist mixing and congestion on the North Outer Roadway. Farah reported the Councilmember met with Queens Borough DOT Commissioner Garcia and will meet with NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez. Board member Tom Mituzas requested the Council Member to review the other shelters. Tom Mituzas spoke of the need for park land in Blissville.

00:45:40 **Marlon Palacios, Jr, Community Coordinator Community Partnerships Division, Queens District Attorney’s Office.** Contact: Tel: 718-286-6472 Email: [MCPalacios@QueensDA.org](mailto:MCPalacios@QueensDA.org) They are holding a “Cash for guns” event (Gun buyback) on 4/23/2022 10 to 4 PM at Praise Tabernacle Church, 108-11 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, NY \$200 and an iPad for each gun surrendered.

00:46:45 **Jeff Kohn, Community Ambassador, NYPD, Patrol Borough Queens North** Contact: Email [Jeffrey.kohn@nypd.org](mailto:Jeffrey.kohn@nypd.org) – Jeff Introduced himself to the community, and he announced he is here to bridge any divide there might be between the community and the NYPD. He is aware of the concerns about late night activities on the LI City waterfront. They are now accepting lightly used dresses and suits for prom season. These can be dropped off at the 108<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct.

00:48:00 **Victoria Medelius, Volunteer Services Coordinator, Sunnyside Community Services** – Contact: Email: [VMedelius@scsny.org](mailto:VMedelius@scsny.org) Tel: 929-335-7801. SCS is doubling its in-person services to seniors and needs more volunteers. Victoria presented a video (“A Special Thank You from Sunnyside Community Services”) showing all that their volunteers do.

00:52:40 **Adriana Beltran, Woodside on the Move** – Their [office](#) is open by appointment. They continue to hold a [Monthly Housing Legal Clinic \(Zoom link\)](#). They had an Easter egg hunt in March with 180 participants and about 10,000 eggs. They celebrated Women’s history month, continued their housing and after school programs. They will have a prom pop-up show partnering with We Give because We Care. with their Beacon

program on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Woodside Community School. Also, they will be accepting donations of lightly used dresses and suits for proms: 8 AM to 3 PM on Saturdays at the Woodside Community School.

### **Guest Speaker**

00:56:10 **Helen Arteaga, CEO, Elmhurst Hospital.** Ms. Arteaga presented a slide show depicting the remarkable work of Elmhurst Hospital which is celebrating its 190<sup>th</sup> year. One of seven public hospitals in the city, they treat everyone who comes in their doors. They are one of four Level 1 Trauma Centers. They have pediatric emergency services. They have 1.1 million visits per year and are affiliated with the medical school of Mount Sinai Hospital. The hospital is unique in its diversity – racially, economically, linguistically and culturally. There are over 30 major service lines and they have won awards – all throughout the pandemic. They are now doing well on recertifications, which had been delayed during the pandemic. During the omicron wave, they managed to take care of both COVID patients and community members who were returning for care delayed during the pandemic. Ms Arteaga requested that the community respond to a survey of needs in [print](#) or [on-line](#) and the deadline is 4/29/2022. They are working on plans for the next 10 years. An important part of that will be a dedicated women’s center, and services for the LGBT community. Her presentation culminated in a video highlighting the hospital’s accomplishments as “the epicenter of the epicenter.” She is grateful for Queens CB2’s support of the hospital. They are conducting a focus group on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The community board can help the hospital by voicing support to elected officials. The community board requested a written statement of needs from the hospital before October.

### **Public Comment**

01:25:40 **Patricia Dorfman** - seeking to draw attention, to review roadway re-designs (e.g., 39<sup>th</sup> and Barnett Aves) and housing (e.g., “The Barnett”). She questions the degree of community engagement and response of public officials.

01:31:19 **Deborah Farley** from Queens Streets for All and promising to submit results from an on-line and written petition. She requests that Queens CB2 review its previous approval of roadway re-designs (e.g., 39<sup>th</sup> and Barnett Aves) which she describes as dangerous and circuitous.

01:30:00 SFC **Jose Acevedo Rivera** the Chairperson requested this person to call back when not driving due to safety concerns.

01:34:00 **Joe LoBello** representing Queens Council on the Arts announced they will have a dance performance in their new space 5-11 47TH Avenue in LIC tomorrow (4/8) Details are on their [Instagram site](#). Community members are encouraged to become more

involved with QCAS and engage with their upcoming listening tour.

01:36:00 SFC **Jose Acevedo Rivera**, Station Commander for [Elmhurst Army Recruiting](#), about incentives for joining the reserves and general army, including citizenship and education benefits.

01:38:32 **Chris Efthimiou** a lifelong Queens resident who travels through our district stated he supports the new protected bike lanes in LIC. A protected route to the Pulaski Bridge is critical. Especially needed, and not necessarily part of the current plan is a safe link from Jackson Ave onto the bridge. He urges Queens CB2 to push for the pedestrian pathway on the south side of the Queensboro bridge.

01:40:47 **Manny Gómez** member of Parish Council of Queen of Angels Church and elected democratic district leader. Asking for review of redesign of 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, Barnett Ave and the Skillman Avenue Bike lanes. He refers to a petition which he promises to post which voices safety concerns, including access for emergency vehicles, citing data on response times by FDNY before and after the bike lanes.

01:43:40 **Nina Perez** lifelong resident of Blissville and member of the Blissville Civic Association explains that although they share the same zip code (11101) as the waterfront area, they lack the amenities. They have been fighting for a park or green space for over 50 years, observing that Calvary Cemetery is not a greenspace. She stated, in 2018 the City made promises to the community, not one of which has been kept. Our residents, including shelter residents, deserve better.

01:45:40 **Maria Davis** Vice-president of the Blissville Civic Association, cited the announcement by Mayor Eric Adams of millions for parks without mentioning the Blissville residents who are part of the 1% of New Yorkers without access to parks. She stated when, in 2018, the city placed shelter residents in their community, it promised parks and playgrounds, and other supports. Queens CB2 and our elected officials are urged to advocate for our community.

01:47:15 **Katherine Bowen** cites need for advocacy for shelters in the Blissville district (North Star and Borden Ave Veterans Shelter) in the face of announced budget cuts. She stated violence is increasing at these shelters. Residents are fearful.

01:48:37 **Michele Melnick** 11-year resident of Hunters Point community stated there is an increased level of crime and lack of accountability by police and elected officials. She stated examples within the last weeks: woman slashed while jogging on Pulaski Bridge, a man attacked with a bottle in front of his own residence. She stated a man who was followed and beaten by a gang in his own lobby because he had asked them to move illegally parked cars. Neighborhood stores have been vandalized and cars stolen. She stated with the exception of Assemblymember Nolan, our electeds have been way too

quiet thus far about this crime epidemic. She stated she hopes the upcoming meeting with the 108<sup>th</sup> Pct Deputy Inspector Wise will bring about meaningful change.

01:54:40 **Transition to Board Business** - Chairperson Galonoy announced we will now be transiting 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.

01:56:00 **Attendance Board** Members Present 34 Absent 9 Excused 7 Quorum: yes

02:01:30 **Motion** Mary Torres moved as follows, seconded by Thomas Mituzas to approve the March 3, 2022, Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes.

**Motion carried:** 26 in favor, none opposed and 8 abstentions (new members not at previous meeting).

02:03:30 **Chairperson's Report (Morry Galonoy)** – Chairperson Galonoy expressed sympathy to board members who lost their parents this month. Chairperson Galonoy thanked outgoing board members for their service and welcomed new board members. He announced new members are encouraged to attend committee meetings and will have an opportunity to express their preferences. This would be a time for continuing members to review their committee preferences as well. New members introduced themselves by name and neighborhood. Members should [sign up for our digital newsletter](#) (coming soon) and subscribe to our [You Tube channel](#). Twenty-three complaints were received by the district office this month (DOT potholes, rat sightings, and enforcement issues for the police department). Board members should take it as part of their responsibility to be the eyes and ears of the community and to report in to the board office. Calling 311 is a good start but calling in the reference number allows the board office to follow up. Committee chairs are asked to finalize their mission statements and stakeholders' listings and put them in a shared Google drive. Bylaws committee will be finalizing their draft and forwarding it to the Executive Committee for review. The Engagement and Inclusion Committee continues to work with Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson of the Technology Committee.

02:19:00 **District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)** – Ms. Markell Kleinert stated she appreciates the help of the Technology Committee. She stated they are planning and creating an on-line complaint form. She stated they are continuing to revamp the web page. Debra Markell Kleinert attended the LIC Partnership Business Improvement District (BID) meeting with the 108 and 115<sup>th</sup> police precinct where they discussed the robberies, especially in pharmacies. At that meeting the police noted they need cooperation from the chain stores who may not press charges.

02:22:30 **Chairperson Galonoy** stated there were revisions to committee names and listed as follows Environment is now Environment, Parks and Recreation. Land Use is now Land Use and Housing. Technology is now Technology and Access. Remaining the same are



Arts and Culture, Budget, By-Laws Task Force, City Services and Public Safety, Engagement and Inclusion, Transportation, and Health, Human Services and Education – with its renamed Subcommittee on the Unhoused and Sheltered. Chairperson Galonoy reminded the members of the importance of their attendance requirements in the by-laws. Debra Markell Kleinert stated that in the previous administration there were no more than three absences are allowed in each member’s two-year term. The chairperson requests members to be more active. If they are not able to participate, they should consider relinquishing their position, to make space for someone who can be more active.

02:28:50 **Department of City Planning (Teal Delys) – Two** ULURP matters are coming up: 58-02 Northern Blvd, an auto-boutique expected to certify in May. A public hearing should be possible before the summer break. The second is 23-10 Queens Plaza South a 26 story commercial building with more work needed on the environmental side. It will probably certify in the early summer and a public hearing could occur in September.

02:32:26 **Health and Human Services & Education – (Rosamond Gianutsos, Thomas Mituzas)** The focus of our committee’s meeting was a [motion for a letter re homeless shelter issues](#) in our community drafted by the Subcommittee on the Unhoused and Sheltered. Several shelters were welcomed by our Blissville neighbors based on assurances by the city which remain unfulfilled. Problems have increased including a recent episode of arson which resulted in injuries to other shelter residents. Yet the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 contains a significant cut for the Division of Homeless Services. The committee universally accepted the urgency of this matter and approved the motion with the understanding that it would also be reviewed by the Housing and Land Use Committee and forwarded to the full board at the present (April) meeting. Each permanent shelter is supposed to have a Community Advisory Board (CAB) and members of Queens CB2 are encouraged to participate. The next meeting of the North Star CAB is on Monday May 2, 2022 at 6 PM. If anyone is interest and please send your name and e-mail to Rosamond Gianutsos at [cogrehab@pipeline.com](mailto:cogrehab@pipeline.com) to be put on the Zoom invite list.

02:49:00 Anatole Ashraf shared his personal experience living for 2 years in a shelter with his mother. Because of the location of the shelter on the Upper West Side, and this changed the course of his life. He emphasized that where the shelters are located really matters.

02:53:50 **Motion:** Thomas Mituzas made a motion which Rosamond Gianutsos seconded for the full board to approve the [letter](#) with subject line: “ALL HANDS-ON DECK – Community Board 2 of Queens Shelters” and send it to listed elected officials. **Motion Approved** Unanimously by show of hands with none opposed and no abstentions.

The Health, Human Services and Education Committee continues to work on its mission statement and list of stakeholders

02:56:50 **Land Use Committee (Christine Hunter) –** The Housing and Land Use Committee spent much time reviewing and assisting in the letter on the Unhoused and Sheltered. The land use



committee is in support. The committee seeks to be more proactive in its efforts, rather than simply being reactive to the ULURP process. Their next meeting is Wednesday 4/20/2022.

03:00:25 **City Services.** Next meeting will be 4/13/2022.

03:00:50 **Arts & Culture Committee** (Kenny Greenberg) The executive director of the [NY Irish Center](#) came to share details of their active 6 days/week program. McManus Irish Dance shared that they are becoming active again following the pandemic. They performed in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and then were on the Today Show. The committee discussed the Open Culture Program which started during the pandemic to allow performances in the streets. It expired at the end of March 2022, but many want it to be made permanent. Petitions are available on line. It is still possible to apply through the [Street Activity Permits Office](#). They had someone from [Queens Rising](#) initiative which is attempting to provide a marketing platform for smaller independent groups in Queens. Joe LoBello of Queens Council for the Arts joined us to describe their listening tour outreach and about a program to help high school students perfect their portfolios and college applications.

03:04:00 **Transportation Committee (Thomas Mituzas)** – Committee heard two presentations from DOT: (1) In response to a community led request, a [proposal for a one-way conversion on 51<sup>st</sup> Ave and 63<sup>rd</sup> St.](#) in Wynwood Gardens. Tom stated they found much traffic including truck making short-cuts through this residential neighborhood. The committee voted to support DOT's recommendation and to ask them to come to the full board in May giving time for members to review the plan. (2) [Protected bike lane network in LIC](#) The committee voted in favor of this plan, noting the safety improvements for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Tom Mituzas reported that DOT stated in the proposed plan, approximately 100 parking spaces will be lost. The committee request DOT to come to the full board meeting. The Transportation Committee also discussed the [Queens bus network redesign](#) and urges the public to sign up for [MTA / DOT virtual outreach workshops](#) on the recently issued draft plan. Alternatively, you can submit comments [here](#). A community member raised the need for a bus route that would go through the midtown tunnel, important because buses are the only reliably ADA compliant form of public transport. It would also alleviate the congestion on the #7 train. The committee will investigate further.

03:13:07 **Environment Committee (Frank Wu)** Did not meet this month. Next meeting is 4/21/2022 (This could be in error, as the date on the Queens CB2 calendar is 4/28). Newtown Creek Alliance and LIC Roots had come to the previous stressing the [urgent need to address the collapsing bulkhead](#) near 29<sup>th</sup> Street. A letter has been drafted and supported by both Land Use and Environment committees. There was a consensus that this letter needs to be sent out expeditiously. Here there is an opportunity to bring some green space on publicly owned land to a community that sorely needs it.

03:19:45 **Motion:** Frank Wu moved, and Kenny Greenberg seconded, that Queens Community Board 2 supports the finalization and distribution of this letter. **Motion Carried** unanimously by show of hands.

03:20:42 **Tech Committee (Anatole Ashraf)** – Chair Ashraf stated no meeting was meeting was held last month. He stated work continues on the newsletter and on the website updates continue. New members are welcome to attend this month's meeting on the 4/26/2022. Two special guests are

expected. The committee works both to facilitate technology for the board in its internal operations, but also for the community.

03:24:28 Chairperson Galonoy reminded the board that it is a non-partisan city agency and political advocacy is not acceptable.

**Meeting Adjourned**

03:25:46 **Motion:** Rosamond Gianutsos moved, and Danielle Brecker seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion Carried:** The meeting adjourned at 09:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

Reviewed / revised and approved for distribution by

☒ Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

☐ Morry Galonoy, Chairperson

☒ Debra Markell Kleinert