



*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\\_v7](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEHc2NP3nNr18zsOxYgwww_v7)

**Sept 8, 2022**

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

**Board Members – Present:** Amparo Abel-Bey, Anatole Ashraf, John Laurence Bahia, Thalia (Karesia) Batan, Nicholas Berkowitz, Danielle Brecker, Tannia Chavez, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Kelly Craig, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Rosamond Gianutsos, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Benjamin Guttmann, Chhemang Lama, Sheila Lewandowski, Patrick Martinez, Kristen McGowan, Thomas Mituzas, Reilly Owens, Clara Oza, Elliot Park, Steven Raga, Norberto Saldana, Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Phuntsok Tashi, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres, Anthony Tudela

#### **Board Members – Absent**

**Unexcused:** Gianna Cerbone, Somnath Ghimire, Karla Perez, Selena Romero

**Excused:** Sandra Bigitschke, Kat Bloomfield, William Garrett, Christine Hunter, Badrun Khan, Benjamin Lucas, Frank Wu

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

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

Farah Salam, District Manager for Councilmember Julie Won

Daniel Bonthius, representing Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Ernie Brooks, representing Congressmember Carolyn Maloney

Ben Geremia, representing Councilmember Robert Holden

Mercedes Jennings, representing State Senator Michael Gianaris

#### **Guests**

Teal Delys, Department of City Planning

Judy Zangwill and Shyvonne Noboa, Sunnyside Community Services

Gretha Suarez, NYC Department of Transportation

Neil Carey, NYC Department of Transportation

*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)**

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

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

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

00:00:40 At 6:35 PM, Queens CB2 Chairperson Morry Galonoy welcomed the community together with elected representatives and other guests.

00:01:00 **Pledge of Allegiance.**

00:02:43 **Chairperson Galonoy** reviewed etiquette for participation in meetings and asked that speakers be brief. Only the chairperson may speak on behalf of the board

00:03:05 **Ben Geremia, representing Councilmember Robert Holden** – Contact: Tel.: 718-366-3900. Email: [bgeremia@council.nyc.gov](mailto:bgeremia@council.nyc.gov). Office, located at 58-38 69th Street, Maspeth. Several community events were announced: e.g., Sept 24 e-waste disposal at the Maspeth Bank parking lot, Sept 28 a conversation with Councilmember Holden, Sun Oct 9th a recycling event, on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> a trunk for treat party at Juniper Park followed by a movie under the stars event.

00:06:18 **Farah Salam, representing Councilmember Julie Won** – Contact: Email: District26@council.nyc.gov Tel.: 718-383-9566. The councilmember's team was active in the community during the summer, distributing COVID test kits, running New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) events, hosting WiFi events at NYCHA locations where they signed up residents for affordable connectivity (which is available to anyone receiving public benefits.) They have been giving out school backpacks partnering with other community organizations. On September 17<sup>th</sup> 12-4 PM at Sunnyside Community Services they will be hosting a [rain barrel give-away](#). This event will also include a town hall focusing on hurricanes and similar extreme weather events. Legislative updates include introduction of bills promoting connectivity and language access.

00:15:20 **Malik Sanders, representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Jr.** Contact: Email: msanders@queensbp.org. Event announcements: (1) [Queens Borough Huddle](#)” with Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr, September 9, 2022 @ 6:00 pm (2) Caribbean Heritage Celebration, September 13, 2022 @ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Queens Museum (3) [Virtual Town Hall on NYC City Council Redistricting](#), September 14, 2022 @ 6:00. (4) Queens Wellness Day: Morning Session. September 24, 2022 @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm at Royal Queen restaurant 136-20 Roosevelt Avenue #3rd floor Flushing NY 11354. Meditation from Deepak Chopra & Inner healing with Queen Afua.

00:17:40 **Daniel Bonthius, representing Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** – Contact: Tel.: 718-662-5970 or visit Representative Ocasio-Cortez's [website](#). Congressperson Ocasio-Cortez's office is now open for walk-ins from 9-5 Monday through Thursday. A significant legislative achievement was the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act this summer. The president ordered student loan forgiveness. Updates on Student Loan Forgiveness from the Department of Education may be found their subscriptions page:

<https://www.ed.gov/subscriptions>. If you worked in nonprofit or government for 10 years, you may be eligible to have all of your student loans forgiven. Please visit <https://www.PSLF.gov> for more information. For more information on applying for Service Academy Nominations for the Sept 2023 year or the Congressional App Challenge, please visit our website. <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/congressional-app-challenge> and <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>. Submissions for both programs are due November 1, 2022.

00:26:10 **Tara Chester**, representing **District Attorney Melinda Katz** Contact: Email [TLChester@queensda.org](mailto:TLChester@queensda.org) Tel.: 718- 286-6441. For information regarding legal and law enforcement internships at the Queens District Attorney's Office: [youthempowerment@queensda.org](mailto:youthempowerment@queensda.org). The office continues its efforts to remove dangerous and illegal weapons off our streets. Recently they announced the arrest of a man with many guns in his home. Another gun buyback event is scheduled for this month in the Rockaways.

00:30:20 **Judy Zangwill, Sunnyside Community Services** introduced **Shyvonne Noboa** who has been promoted to Associate Executive Director of Older Adult Services. She will be taking over for Jonah Gensler.— Contact: Email: [SNoboa@scsny.org](mailto:SNoboa@scsny.org) Tel: 718 784-6173. Announcements: (1) Sunnyside Community Services (SCS) has now opened their new center offering services to families caring for people with cognitive impairments (dementia). This is a free program which services the entire borough. Reach out to them for help. If they cannot help, they will advise you where you can get it. (2) They also have a home health aide training program. (3) SCS is always in need of volunteer support services. Email: [volunteering@scsny.org](mailto:volunteering@scsny.org) and ask for Victoria! Web: <https://www.scsny.org/programs/volunteer/volunteer>. Chairperson Galonoy stated that he will continue to volunteer at SCS and encourages others to do so. Tel: 718 784-6173

00:38:18 **Chairperson Galonoy** expressed hope that everyone had a good summer. Now that we are resuming, we need to comply with a requirement of the revised Open Meetings Law (OML) which states that those board members who are participating virtually must keep their video cameras on, so, just as in an in-person meeting, they can be seen and (when recognized) heard by the public. To preserve privacy, one can use an image background.

00:41:40 **Guest Speaker: Sid Berraha, Department of Sanitation New York** presented information about [the new curbside composting collections](#) which will begin in Queens on October 3. Mr. Berraha responded to questions. Use this link to [request DSNY participation](#) at a community event.

01:18:10 **Benjamin Kim** representing **Woodside on the Move (WOM)** Over the summer WOM ran summer camp with over 300 participants and distributed food, PPE supplies and backpacks. They will have a 9/11 remembrance event and are still accepting

applications for after-school programs. Their monthly housing legal clinic will be held on Sept 27th.

01:23:20 **Ernie Brooks**, representing **Congressmember Carolyn Maloney** – Contact: Tel.: 212-860-0606 or visit [Rep. Maloney constituent services](#). Redistricting has resulted in Queens not being part of Congressmember Maloney’s district. Until the end of the term, however, the present district lines apply.

#### 01:22:18 **Public Comment**

No one signed up for general public comment.

#### 01:26:09 **Public Hearings**

01:26:10 **(1) Presentation by CB2 Ad hoc Redistricting Task Force – [Council District 26 Redistricting Resolution](#) (Danielle Brecker)** No one signed up for public comment.

01:42:15 **(2) Presentation for [58-02 Northern Blvd ULURP application](#):** (Frank St. Jacques)

#### **Public Comment**

01:59:00 **Émilie Decaudin** spoke in opposition to the application. The community needs more housing, especially in a transit rich zone, and fewer fossil fuel consuming vehicles

02:01:24 **Barbara LeGoff** resides 2 houses away from proposed dealership. She questioned why she and her neighbors were not notified and consulted by the owners. She is concerned about the sinking roadway and the effect on water pipes, especially when they dig the cellar.

02:02:44 **Bobby Preti** resident and social worker for Families for Safe Streets, spoke in opposition, stating that large SUVs are dangerous, especially for children and older adults. This summer, just 10 blocks away, an 89 year old woman was killed by a vehicle such as this dealership will sell. Indeed, the location, Northern Blvd, is the focus of safety efforts. Housing would be a better use for this community.

02:04:12 **Mary C Madden** is a 58<sup>th</sup> St resident and Nurse Practitioner at Elmhurst Hospital who is not opposed to the proposed use. She is concerned that the 10 foot walkway/parking lane would attract undesirable activities at night. She stated voiced concerns about flooding which has been a problem in the past, as this location is a valley. She asked about permissible alternate uses.

02:07:55 **Inderjeet Bassant**, shop steward for the owners’ Ford/Lincoln service location (a union shop) in Jamaica, supported this proposal because it will bring jobs. He voiced support for the owners as employers.

02:13:43 **Steven Bodzin**, a nearby resident, spoke in opposition. He stated that Northern Blvd needs to be made greener, lovelier and safer. There are already too many car dealerships and associated advertising. Residential uses (homes) make people feel safer.

02:16:50 **Transition to Board Business** - Chairperson Galonoy announced we will now be transitioning 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.

02:17:45 **Attendance** Board Members Present: 36; Absent: 5-Unexcused, 7-Excused.

Quorum: yes

02:33:25 **Motion:** To approve the June 2, 2022 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. (Motion made by Amparo Abel-Bey and seconded by Lisa Deller.)

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

02:33:55 **Chairperson's Report (Morry Galonoy)** –

- Chairperson Galonoy recognized and reflected on the upcoming anniversary of 9/11 and the recent escalation in the number of traffic / pedestrian fatalities in our district.
- He expressed good wishes to all who celebrate holidays this month.
- He announced that the [public member application](#) is now posted. Deadline for applying is Oct 15 with appointments expected in November.
- Chairperson Galonoy thanked the Redistricting Task Force, especially Danielle Brecker. He reminded members that the chairperson is the only one who can speak for the board.
- Please be sure to send communications through the board office for record-keeping. Please forward all presentations to the board to the office as well.
- The digital newsletter was released. He encouraged the community and board members to [sign up for Queens CB2 digital newsletter](#) . Contact the office for a hard copy.
- The Budget committee's work continues.
- The Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) [hearing for 45-40 Vernon Blvd](#) on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> will be virtual. In June Queens CB2 sent [a letter to BSA stating and explaining our opposition](#) . Anyone can attend the hearing and sign up for public comment.
- Again, please subscribe to [our YouTube Channel](#).
- Our next meeting is Oct. 6, 2022

02:39:05 **District Manager's Report (Debra Markell Kleinert)** – Top community requests this month: DEP, e.g., catch basins clogged; DOT, e.g., signage, potholes, illegal parking; DSNY, e.g., garbage in street, missed pickups.

- CB2 attended National Night Out in August and distributed branded CB 2 items to the community and thanked Diane Ballek President of the 108th Police Precinct and Sheila Lewondowski
- DSNY advised that Leaf bags will be sent to the CB 2 in case anyone requests them. If you would like them contact the CB2 office.
- If anyone has a change in the contact information please advise CB2 office.

02:44:11 **Department of City Planning (Teal Delys)** – At the present meeting this board held a hearing and will vote on the ULURP proposal for a zoning variance at 58th and Northern

to allow construction of an automobile dealership. Other projects include the LIC Ramps special permit renewal at 27-01 Jackson Ave and a proposal for 23-02 Queens Plaza South, a 26 story all commercial building delayed by ongoing environmental review. The DCP and the mayor have initiated the “City of Yes” new zoning text amendments for zero carbon, zoning for economic opportunity and zoning for housing opportunity.

02:49:42 **Land Use and Housing Committee (Lisa Deller)** – Discussion ensued between board members and the owners of the land at 58-02 Northern Blvd (Joseph Vultaggio and Michael Nacleria for Ford/Lincoln) and their associates (Attorneys Frank St Jacques and Jordan Press).

After much discussion, Laura Shepard proposed a resolution to oppose the ULURP application for 58-02 Northern Blvd.

- Whereas alternative public, residential or commercial uses would better serve our community and this is an inappropriate land use for this location in Community Board 2.
- Whereas the neighbors on the adjacent blocks have unaddressed safety and flooding concerns.
- Whereas this community suffers from high rates of traffic violence and Northern Blvd is currently a Vision Zero priority corridor. Since Jan. 2015, 944 road users were injured and one killed on Northern Boulevard, west of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.
- Whereas this community is concerned about climate change and will not support a business that encourages additional emissions and pollution. Lincoln's current fleet typically averages well under 30 mpg and under 25mpg in cities. Whereas its commitment to convert to electric vehicles by 2030 is too slow and inadequate, given that there are currently 416ppm of CO2 in the atmosphere and we are already feeling the impacts.
- Whereas Lincoln vehicles are larger and heavier SUVs, which are significantly more likely to harm cyclists and pedestrians and 8 times more likely to kill children who are struck than sedans.
- Whereas 11 of the 14 children killed in NYC year to date in 2022 were killed by SUVs, pickup trucks, vans, or school buses. Whereas this site is one block from an elementary school and several other neighborhood schools.
- Whereas existing auto businesses along the Northern Blvd have historically been bad neighbors and racked up large numbers of complaints for blocking sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes.
- Whereas the parking plan for the proposed use was not justified or elaborated upon by a satisfactory degree.
- Stephen Cooper suggested a modified approach, which Laura Shepard accepted, as reflected in the motion which follows.

03:34:08 **Motion:** To oppose the ULURP proposal for 58-02 Northern Blvd and to further state that Community Board 2 opposes the development of any new auto-related industry along the Northern Boulevard corridor (Motion proposed by Laura Shepard and seconded by Amparo Abel-Bey.)

**Motion passed** by roll call vote: 17 Yes; 15 No; 1 Abstain

Lisa Deller stated that the motion will now be forwarded to the Borough President who will hold a hearing on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Also, the BSA hearing for 45-40 Vernon Blvd. will be held on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>.

04:27:00 **Redistricting resolution (Danielle Brecker)**

**Motion:** to approve [the redistricting resolution](#) (Motion proposed by Sheila Lewandowski and seconded by Stephen Cooper)

04:46:09 **Motion Passed** by roll call vote: 34 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain; 1 not voting

04:46:20 **Transportation Committee (Thomas Mituzas)** – The committee met and passed several motions as specified in [the minutes of their 9/6/2022 meeting](#).

04:49:01 **Technology and Access Committee (Anatole Ashraf)** – The committee reviewed possible approaches to meeting format, based on the results of a survey of board members' preferences. Despite a general preference for a hybrid format, there is no funding.

04:51:35 **Small Business and Local Economy (Kenneth Greenberg)** The committee had their first meeting and worked on a mission statement. Their next meeting will be on Sept 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.

04:53:00 **Health and Human Services & Education – (Lauren Springer)** At our [June](#) meeting the committee had a guest speaker, Mandy Zucker, Executive Director of Inner Harbor, an organization that provides support to high school and college students experiencing grief and loss. Helen Arteaga, CEO at Elmhurst Hospital will be our guest at our September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

04:55:04 **Arts & Culture Committee (Karesia Batan)** Details and announcements from the June meeting are in [the minutes](#).

04:58:00 **Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee (Frank Wu)** No report. [Minutes of June meeting](#) and an [attachment](#) for the Blissville Veterans Memorial Flagpole are posted.

04:58:26 **City Services and Public Safety (Stephen Cooper)** indicated that details of their June meeting is in the [committee minutes](#).

04:59:21 **Motion:** to adjourn the meeting. (Amparo Abel-Bey proposed, and Thomas Mituzas seconded)

**Motion passed:** without opposition and the meeting adjourned at 11:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rosamond Gianutsos, Secretary

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