



*Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President*

Community Board No. 2

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*Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager*

February 5, 2026

Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held in person and teleconference on Zoom

Community Board 2 Board Members – Present

Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar (PV), Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Karesia Batan, Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Lisa Charles, Tannia Chavez (PV), Osman Chowdhury, Morry Galonoy, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez (PV), Camille Gray (PV), Kenneth Greenberg (PV), Corey Hannigan, Christine Hunter, Prameet Kumar, Bradford Leibin, Sheila Lewandowski (PV), Patrick Martinez, Eric Narburgh, Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Randy Plemel (PV), Pia Rahman, Oumaya Saab (PV), Norberto Saldana, Alyssa Sawicki (PV), Ryan Smith, Lauren Springer, Amaury Valdez, Alaina Van Slooten, Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob

Community Board 2 Board Members – Absent

Unexcused:

Nicholas Berkowitz, Mohammad Hossen, Chhemang Lama, Benjamin Lucas, Andie Olivares, Phugelzen Sherpa, Akello Thomas

Excused:

Evelyn Chango, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis, Lisa Deller, James Kim

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, MaryAnn Gurrado, Community Coordinator

Elected Officials

*Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris
Karen Sheu, Representing NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga
Carlos, Representing NYS Assembly Member Claire Valdez
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won
Laura Shepard, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Nerissa Martinez, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz
Luis E. Villa, Representing the Office of the Public Advocate*

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

Department of City Planning

Feigle Lechtchiner

Public Comment

Daisy Szeto, Charlie Mitchell, Yusrav Khov, Vishnu, Leticia Vasquez

Note: Reference to the You Tube Video and the associate 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 <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>
(Approximate elapsed time stamps provided in these minutes refer to this video)

Link to <https://blockparty.studio/Archive> where you can navigate to a transcript of this meeting.

Time: (Approximate from You Tube Video)

0:03:05: Anatole Ashraf welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided housekeeping rules and reminded everyone that their vote is their opinion. He requested everyone follow the WAIT Rule (Why am I talking).

0:03:27 Pledge of Allegiance

0:03:51 Anatole Ashraf acknowledged the death of Alex Pretti.

0:08:30 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris provided an update:

- Their office collaborated and was able to provide information on grants to small businesses as well as community groups up to \$5,000. There is still time to apply for these grants till May 4, 2026.
- Provided an update on the call with OEM during the recent snowstorm.
- Provided an update on the concerns regarding the storm clean up and about the MTA not cleaning in front of bus stops.
- Reported the Senator has been in discussions with the MTA concerning the prevention of the bus stop from being removed.
- Q & A

0:11:33 Karen Sheu, Representing New York Senator Kristen Gonzalez's provided the following updates:

- Announced the state senate passed a package of bills through the committee on elections and provided an update.

- Senator Gonzalez joined the NY Immigrations Coalition to call for the urgent need to pass legislation to protect our communities from federal overreach and called for congress to block funding and abolish ICE.
- Provided an update on the New York for All Act and the Access to Representation Act.
- Announced the Senator organized a letter urging the governor to support the NYSNA Nurses on Strike and require that hospital systems continue gender affirming care.
- Their office will host a webinar with NY State Department of Health on ACA subsidies.
- Ther office will host an immigration Know Your Rights training for clergy and places of worship in late February, still working on a date.
- If anyone needs assistance to reach out to their office at www.gonzaleznystate.gov.
- Q & A

0:16:24 Jamey Battle, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the budget letter the assembly member signed which is being circulated by Assembly Member Shrestha to advocate for the governor, the senate and the assembly to tax the rich.
- Provided an update on the big budget letters that he is circulating including Mitchell Lama Capital Reinvestment Program, letters for increased programmatic support, funding which includes non-profits in the district.
- Announced the Assembly Member's Bill about updating NY State Veterans Registry was passed this week.
- Their office will be conducting a walk through Little Manila.
- Announced their office is partnering with Congress Member Grace Meng's Office to hold mobile office hours, 11 to 2 pm in their district office.
- Their office is located at 60-10 Queens Boulevard, lower level. Their telephone number is: (718) 651-3185.
- If any seniors are in need of snow shoveling contact their office as they have a few slots left.
- Q & A

0:21:05 Carlos, Representing NY State Assembly Member Claire Valdez provided the following update:

- Provided an update on staff changes in their office.
- Spoke about the Assembly Member's testimony regarding extending the G Train all the way to Flushing.
- Spoke about tax prep to be done with Urban Outbound at their office, details still being finalized.
- Q & A

0:22:54 Farah Salam, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won provided the following updates:

- Reported their office has been working to get funding to support the OneLIC Community Oversight Committee and recently secured grant funding for the first year of the project. Meetings will begin in the spring.
- Reported on a bill that was passed called Intro 479A which would require the Chief procurement officer to establish standards and procedures for contractors to determine the existence of conflicts of interest concerning city contracts.
- Reported on Bill 510 which would require chief procurement officer to ensure that one or more searchable publicly accessible interfaces provide information about city procurements that exceed the small purchases limits.
- Also introduced the Daylighting Bill.
- Applications for Discretionary Funding will close on the 19th and the form can be found on their website.
- Reported they hosted their Sunnyside Rapid Response last Wednesday. Their office will be hosting another one on February 19, 2026, from 6 to 8 pm. Reach out to their office for more information.
- Announced a Fooding Town Hall meeting which will take place in the spring.
- Their office has been working with DSNY and urging them to clean up the sidewalk's crosswalks and property owners to also as it is their responsibility to make sure, they are cleaned.
- Continuing with their housing lawyer appointments and their immigration lawyer appointments.
- Q & A

0:37:07 Laura Shepard, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards provided the following update and announcements:

- Education Community Resource Fair on February 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm at Queens Borough Hall
- Lunar New Year Celebration on February 23, 2026, at 5:00 pm at Queens Borough Hall.
- Black History Month Celebration on February 25, at 5:30 pm at Queens Borough Hall.
- Dominican Independence Day Celebration on February 26, 2026, at 6:00 pm at PS307 Pioneer Academy in Corona.
- RSVP to these events at www.queensbp.nyc.gov
- Final reminder for Community Board Applications will close on February 13, 2026. For all those interested in applying or reapplying the online at www.bitly/communityboard2026 or their website at www.queensbp.nyc.gov. For more information reach out to Michael Carlier, Director of Community Boards. His number is (718) 286-2618 or email him at mcarlier@queensbp.nyc.gov.
- If anyone has any questions or concerns, reach out to (718) 286-3000.
- Q & A

0:40:48 Nerissa Martinez, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz provided the following update:

- Reported the Queens DA announced that Dan Bujor was charged with animal cruelty for tying two dogs behind his car in LIC.
- Reported the Queens DA announced that 124 guns were collected on January 31, 2026, at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Southeast Queens during a buyback event.

0:42:46 Feigle Lechtchiner, Department of City Planning announced on February 2, 2026, the City Planning Commission certified an application by the Parks Department for acquisition, authority and site selection of several privately owned sites in the Queens Community District 2. The application is in public review, and the community board has a review period which ends on Apr 13, 2026.

0:44:06 Louis Villa, Representing the Office of the Public Advocate provided the following update and announcements:

- Century of National Accommodations of Black History on February 9, 2026, 6:00 pm.
- Queens Wellness Satellite Office on February 20, 2026.
- Queens Property Tax Exemption March 9, 2026, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Recently joined with the NYC Council to override former Mayor Adams last minute veto legislation to support street vendors.
- Q & A

0:47:36 General Public Comment

0:48:13 Daisy Szeto, Member of Families for Safe Streets spoke about her mom who was it by a turning SUV on 48th Street and Northern Blvd and died on May 2, 2022. She discussed Sammy's Law.

0:55:44 Charlie Mitchell, Birth by Queens Foundation Incorporated spoke about midwifery and the need to build the first birth center in Queens. There is only one birth center in New York City and eight birth centers in the whole state. They are seeking a letter of support from the Community Board and are planning to meet with the Health and Human Services Committee.

1:03:12 Yusrav Khov, Spot Link the founder of this organization which is a technology company to help New Yorkers to find street parking faster and to avoid parking tickets. They are building a mobile app that focuses on NYC urban mobility.

1:06:20 Vishnu spoke about the concrete viaduct that the 7 train runs on in Sunnyside. This is a piece of infrastructure that has great historical and architectural significance to the neighborhood. It has beautiful green tiles that were removed and were never replaced. He would like to see those green tiles return and installed in a way that does not create dangerous conditions.

1:12:26 Leticia Vasquez thanked Council Member Won and local CBO's for organizing last week's rapid response training. As a lifelong Latina resident of Sunnyside, she appreciated over representation and attendance of white allies who attended, especially at time when black and brown people are being profiled, snatched up and kidnapped across the country. She stated she had whistles from a fellow comrade which can be used to alert community members of the frozen water agents in the neighborhood who are in the process of intaking someone.

1:14:09 a resident spoke about the Manhattan bound E and F stop under the Skyline Tower at 34th Street which is quite disgusting. It is flooded all the time. Since it is owned by the Skyline Tower, the MTA doesn't fix it directly. He has submitted complaints to the MTA to no avail.

1:18:50 Attendance (Ryan Smith)

Board Members Present:	25	Board Members Absent:	7
Present Virtual	10	Excused	5
		Quorum:	Yes

1:22:35 Approval of the January 2026 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Anatole Ashraf to approve the January 2026 Community Board 2 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion carried with all in favor with none (0) opposed and (1) one abstention.

1:24:13 Chairperson's Report (Anatole Ashraf)

- Anatole Ashraf made a motion, and it was seconded to add the vote regarding Sammy's Law during the Transportation Committee update. All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.
- Provided an update about the Personnel Committee meeting, consistent with the CB2 bylaws. Because content of the meeting pertains to personnel matters, specifics cannot and should not be discussed in open session. This is a legal requirement intended to protect employees and members of the board.
- Announced a special meeting of the board members on February 12, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, in hybrid format.

1:27:55 Treasurer's Report (Michael Zoorob)

- Provided an update on the Board's operational budget expenses from Q2 this year which are on the website.
- He discussed the goals for the near term, medium term and long term.
- Anyone on the Committee can submit ideas for next year's operational budget by the end of the month.

1:38:25 By-Laws Committee (Patrick Martinez)

- Provided an update on the by-Laws to be voted upon at the March meeting.

- Thanked Sheila Lewandowski and everyone on the working group including Anatole, Roz, Nelly, Michael, Randy, Eric, Pia and Leticia.
- A discussion about the Minority Report took place.

2:09:18 District Manager’s Report (Debra Markell Kleinert) provided the following update:

- Parks has announced that over 3,000 trees will be planted in Queens this spring.
- This spring planting season, parks will be targeting the following areas: Long Island City, west Maspeth and Sunnyside. Exact locations where they will be planted can be viewed at the tree work hub.
- They are currently transitioning to this neighborhood tree planting program which will be in full effect in 2027. After this initial transition phase, they aim to plant the entire city on a 9-year cycle. For more information visit nyc.gov/parks/street-tree-planting.
- Reminder 2026 Queens community board 2 application close on February 13, 2026.
- The office had approximately 22 original complaints for the month of December.
 - The top complaints were:
 - DOS- snow not shoveled, trash, illegal dumping
 - DOT– potholes, pedestrian walkways
 - PD – illegally parked vehicles
- The office will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026, for President’s Day.
- Wishing everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day.
- The next Community Board 2 meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

After concluding the District Manager’s report, Ms. Markell Kleinert then made remarks relating to a personnel matter. The full comments are found in the YouTube recording of this meeting.

2:14:08 Committee Reports:

2:14:33 Transportation Committee (Reilly Owens)

- Provided an update about the 39th Street Bus Stop the bus boarding islands along Queens Boulevard.
- Reported we are pushing for a much safer intersection at 39th Street and Queens Boulevard.
- Discussed Sammy’s Law and the need to change the speed limit in our district from 25 mph to 20 mph.
- The committee voted unanimously and thought it would be important and have more power if the entire board voted as well.
- The Committee also voted for universal daylighting.

- The Committee voted to send a letter to DOT that we would like to see the entire district adopt Sammy's law to change the speed limits to 20 mph.

Motion (made by Reilly Owens, the motion was seconded by Anatole Ashraf)

Motion carried with all in favor of the motion, none opposed and one (1) abstention.

Whereas: There has been a traffic death and over a thousand injury crashes in our district in 2025.

Whereas: We know reducing speeds lowers the risk of serious injury crashes. Whereas CB 2 already has successful slow zones for Sunnyside and

Whereas: Sammy's law allows for implementation of district-wide slow zones by the New York City DOT. We request the City of New York implement a slow zone of 20 miles per hour, including 15 miles per hour in school zones on all streets, with fewer than three lanes as applicable under Sammy's law in Queens Community Board District 2.

2:35:18 Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused and Shelter Committee (Lauren Springer) provided the following update.

- At the January meeting the committee heard presentations for organ and blood donations.
- Encouraged all to visit the NY Blood Center website at www.nybc.org to find a nearby blood donation location. There is still a blood emergency.
- The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2026, at 6:00 pm. There will be a presentation from the NYC Department of Health a new family home visits initiative and one on vaccination schedules.
- Provided an update on whether or not there are federal restrictions on states and cities from establishing their own vaccine guidelines from the field rep for Congresswoman Grace Meng's office.

2:38:16 Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee (Karesia Batan) provided the following update:

- Announced the committee is setting our intentions and plans within Committee work for the year. We had updates from our public members and people who regularly attend.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday,
- Announced Materials for the Arts will be in attendance. They have robust programs and offerings to non-profits.

2:40:46 City Services & Public Safety Committee (Danielle Brecker) provided the following update:

- Reported Captain Armani attended the meeting and provided an update about illegally parked vehicles on the sidewalk.
- They are also working to get tires off the sidewalk.

- Encouraged everyone to call 311 if you have an issue or concern. If it is a criminal issue, call 911. When you have the 311 number to email it to the board office so they can follow up.
- The captain informed the committee they are patrolling and engaging with problematic night clubs that have noise issues.
- Provided an update about ICE and what the role of the PD is with ICE.
- The next City Services & Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on February 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

2:49:21:50 Land Use & Housing (Prameet Kumar) provided the following update:

- The committee discussed 44-17 Greenpoint Avenue, the former Bliss Theater. The developer attended the meeting and presented plans for a mid-rise mixed use, affordability, community benefits, grocery access, streetscape but no decision is required at this time. The developer came well in advance of any ULURP action. This will eventually come before the board.
- The Committee discussed broader pipeline updates including the Walk to Parks Acquisitions, The ULURP clock just started on this.
- There is an upcoming ULURP for the TD Bank property on 46th Avenue next to MoMA PS1. There is a proposal for a building there.
- The committee discussed the 2026 priorities.
- The committee wants to shift from more of the reactive project review work to more proactive neighborhood planning in our committee.
- The committee discussed monitoring the OneLIC commitments and some of the waterfront development parcels infrastructure, advocacy, library, site housing, Sunnyside Yards northern Boulevard or Roosevelt Avenue study.
- The committee also talked about the land use consultant.

2:51:18 Small Business and Local Economy (Morry Galonoy) provided the following update:

- The committee discussed having a small business fair in April or May.
- The committee discussed the idea of possibly advocating for the creation of a retail incubator in the district.
- The next Committee meeting will take place on February 24, 2026.
- Seeking a public member and the need for more members on the Committee.

2:55:42 Engagement & Inclusion (Tannia Chavez) provided the following update:

- Reported on January 10, 2026, they celebrated their fourth annual coat and sock drive. Thanked the JPK foundation America and Culture Lab who provided drop-off locations.
- Thanked Board Member Dr. Rosamond Giantusos and Warren Davis for being part of the Coat Drive.
- On January 15, 2026, we celebrated our first meet and greet and encouraged our neighbors to apply to become a CB 2 Member.

- January 27, 2026, guest speaker Michael Carlier, Director of Community Boards Queens from the Queens Borough President’s Office provided an update on the importance of becoming a community board member.
- The next committee meeting will take place on February 24, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

2:59:40: Tech Committee (Amaurys Valdez) provided the following update:

- Announced there were a few dead links on the website that were fixed.
- Announced we are requesting OTI attend an upcoming meeting.
- Provided an update about the 2026 Queens Hackathon which he attended.
- Wants to make sure that everyone is aware of it for next year.
- Discussed the tech committee’s plans for a tech competition and also a photography competition. The goal is to update the photos on the website. Certificates will be given to the winners.
- Announced they will be hosting a Hackathon on February 28, 2026, at Queens Technical High School.

3:04:07 Environment, Parks & Recreation (Carlos Castell Croke) provided the following update:

- Reported at the last meeting there was a presentation by Beyond Plastics who discussed a piece of legislation they are supporting to reduce the plastic packaging.
- The Committee is collecting a list of environmental legislation that they want to support at the state level.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson

Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2