



COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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SALUA BAIDA
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CHRISTINE NOLAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES MARCH 11, 2026

PRESENT

S. BAIDA, CHAIR
E. ALFONSECA, 1st VICE CHAIR
P. BEADLE, 2nd VICE CHAIR

N. JOHNSON, 3rd VICE CHAIR
K. BATRA, SECRETARY OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL
L.T. CIACCIO, PARLIAMENTARIAN

D. ARONOV
A. AYON
H. BIRNBAUM
L. DAVIS
H. BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
J. DERESZEWSKI
K. ENGEL
A. FERATOVIC
K. FUENTES

N. GALIPEAU
K. IMAS
M. LASTER
S. MUNAWAR
J. PRATT
R. PUNJABI
P. RODRIGUEZ
S. ROLNICK
G. SANDOVAL

D. SCHANTZ
H. SCHONHAUT
D. SOLOW
E. SHVARTSMAN
J. SILVA
L. TECPANECATL
M. TUCKER
D. WALCOTT
E. ZAKRY

ABSENT

R. ASHE
K. CLARK*
T. GAVRIELOF*
A. GUO*
S. JAIN*

M. LASHLEY-KABORÉ*
P. MORGAN
D. RACHNAEV
G. RIVKIN*
L. ROBINS

A. PRATAP SHAH*
B. WINSTEAD

*EXCUSED ABSENCE

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHRISTINE NOLAN
KEVIN MCALEER
ELIANA SWELL
JORDAN GOLDES
MERCEDES JENNINGS
AMPARITO ROSERO
JESSICA CORTES
CHARLES VAVRUSKA
JACQUELINE ROZADO
BARBARA VULICH
MICHELLE HETTICH

DISTRICT MANAGER
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI
OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS
OFFICE OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER CATALINA CRUZ
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER PHIL WONG
OFFICE OF QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF

This meeting was held in person with a limited virtual option via Zoom for individuals with extraordinary circumstances. The following CB6 Members joined the meeting via Zoom: L.T. Ciaccio and Shari Rolnick.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said at the meeting.

Chair Baida made an announcement of the passing of Maria Concolino, Community Service Aide of Community Board Six. A moment of silence was held in honor of Maria Concolino. District Manager Nolan and Former Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis shared a few words about Maria Concolino and her time working at Community Board Six. John Concolino, Maria's husband, also joined the meeting virtually via Zoom and said a few words on behalf of his wife Maria.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mark Laster

- *The Breaking Bread Building Bonds Luncheon was very successful this past Sunday. We had over 50 people at the Central Library in Jamaica. This is our first one out of Forest Hills, and it attracted a much more diverse crowd. We plan to hold the next one in May to celebrate both AAPI Heritage Month and Jewish Heritage Month at Queen's College.*
- *Youth Talk Democracy, which is an extension of Let's Talk Democracy in conjunction with Queen's College, will be organizing a summer think tank for rising eighth graders to high school seniors, running from July 16th to August 20th. I will share the application with the Community Board. If you're interested in learning more about this program, you can email the two young women who are leading this, Ananya Kothari ananyak0905@gmail.com or Jordan Tsao jordanytsao@gmail.com.*
- *A J51 update, for co-ops and condos struggling to financially comply with Local Law 97, people from the Green Co-op Council have been lobbying to extend and expand the J51 tax abatement for capital improvements necessary to comply with Local Law 97. I'm happy to report that in the Senate, we have been successful in having them include an extension and further enhancements. We are now working to pressure the Assembly to do the same.*
- *Earlier today, I was at a program in Elmhurst Hospital, and I learned that they have an extensive behavioral health resource. We met with Dr. Vladimir Gasca, the head of Psychiatry there. They have an inpatient psychiatric service. If you are seeing a therapist and need to see a psychiatrist for medication, they will work with you. They have a partial hospitalization program and a Clubhouse program. They also have case managers who are willing to assist. They are open to working with people from our community.*

Heather Beers-Dimitriadis

I wanted to personally thank Stancy Saji for all her hard work this weekend, at the Queens Sign Block Party. A lot of us, Leslie, Jean, Mark and Pedro, were there, the Community Board, thank you for being there. It was amazing (full disclosure, I'm on the community advisory Board at Northwell) but to watch that young woman pull all of this together and the way that she did it was just amazing. I just wanted to amplify that. It was such a beautiful day and the weather was rocking. About 2,000 people came out to that and it was wonderful.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Baida reported that the office received Six written public comments and reminded all speakers that they have two minutes to speak. You can also submit your written comment to include it in the Minutes.

Leslie Brown, Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce

I would like to address the resolution to request that Department of Transportation pilot a Low Traffic Neighborhood in this district, Queens Community Board 6. As I understand, a Low Traffic Neighborhood's main goal is to reduce traffic. Statistics show this can decrease traffic up to 50%. A quote from www.openplans.org states that streets in low traffic neighborhoods "can then revert to what they were built for – ball games, chats on the corner, walks to the bodega, or bike lessons." We do not need traffic reduced by 50% on Austin Street. We have plenty of open spaces to enjoy such as McDonald Park, Flagpole Park and Austin Street Park. It is unclear whether the CB6 Low Traffic

Neighborhoods Resolution plan includes reducing traffic on Austin Street. The community board has proposed over the last 2-3 years that Austin Street be closed to cars, disregarding the devastating effect this would have on the small businesses located here. Will the low traffic neighborhood plan once again aim at taking parking away from Austin Street? I sincerely hope it does not and I respectfully ask that the resolution might include that Austin Street is safe from closure or loss of parking. The Forest Hills Chamber and all the businesses we represent need to make sure that we protect Austin Street and the traffic and parking needed to support a thriving business district.

Marla Cornejo

Leslie said pretty much everything that's been on my mind. I did a quick ChatGPT, and there's 15 parks and schools in our small neighborhood. There is 135 to 150 businesses on Austin Street. And, again, I can't be opposed to something that's a pie in the sky, you know, a dream right now, nothing's taking place, but anything that would impact traffic, being turned away, such as any kind of blockades, deterring people from coming down Austin Street to access all of our stores, cafes, restaurants, everything that's there that it offers. I would be very highly opposed to. I, myself, feed 35 families, you know, in one business. I can't imagine the impact it would have if Austin Street lost 50% of its traffic. I've already seen the bike lanes took away the parking spots on the corners and the loading trucks took away parking. We feel like, the open street, closed street, whatever you want to call it, the Sunday thing that takes away from Austin Street. In my opinion, with very little return on those days, as a business person, somebody who pays high rents and high salaries and everything else, it would be really a shame to see people have to close their doors because people want to get together for the corner bodega, which doesn't really exist on Austin Street, when you can take your coffee and sit in any one of the beautiful green spaces we have in Forest Hills.

Steven Teh

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Steven Teh and my family, and I have lived in Forest Hills for over 20 years. This is my first time attending a community board meeting and I'm here because of the many conversations I've had with long-term neighbors who are deeply concerned about what is happening along 108th Street. Our urgency, our worry about the future of our neighborhood pushed me to show up, listen, and speak out. Over the past several months, people on my block and throughout neighborhood have shared concerns about proposed seven-story developments on 108th Street and 68th Road, as well as additional rezoning plans along the corridor, including a proposed 11-story building, at 70th Avenue. As more residents learn about these projects, the reaction has been the same which are anxiety and frustration, and disbelief that such a large-scale development is being considered in an area already struggling. With congestion and overburdened infrastructure, like my neighbors, my family has benefited from the stability and the character of this community, which is why these proposals feel so alarming. This isn't just about one building, it's a panel of rezoning that could permanently reshape 108th Street and the surrounding residential blocks of Cord Myer. Once these developments move forward, the impact on traffic, parking, noise, school capacity, and essential services will be permanent. That's why I'm speaking out tonight, not just for myself, but for the many neighbors who encouraged me to be here. I respectfully ask the community board to continue standing with the residents to oppose developments that are clearly out of scale with our neighborhood's character and capacity. Forest Hills is not a blank state for unlimited high-density development, it's a community with a distinct identity, long-established infrastructure limits, and thousands of families who depend on thoughtful balance planning.

Micheline Frederick

Good evening, everyone. I'm here representing about over a dozen homeowners on 65th Drive and 66th Avenue who feel that the proposed renovation, construction approved for 85-06 65th Drive, merits being reviewed, as it could detrimentally impact our neighborhood and damage our homes. We would like to understand how this job, which could impact our quality of life for two years, require the underpinning of several homes. Bring in drilling and excavating equipment within houses, single-family houses built 90 years ago, partially block 65th Drive, and ultimately remove all zoning-mandated parking was allowed to move forward without any public hearing outreach or seemingly board knowledge. Why was this project granted a waiver to allow for the removal of existing parking when similar lots across the district all required parking by zone, all required parking due to zoning. Where impact studies done to confirm that digging a 24-foot-deep hole for an underground facility to include a pool is safe, given that simply testing the ground cracked the adjacent portion home's porch. The proposed depth is far deeper than anything in the surrounding area, residential or commercial, and we worry that not only that the vibrations will damage our homes as far as fidget, but that it could exacerbate flooding by affecting groundwater. The developer has sent letters requesting access to directly adjacent lots approved for construction to begin immediately. Yet we cannot verify if the plans are fully approved. Considering the scope and the potential disruption and damage to our community, we feel

that the lack of transparency and communication regarding this project to be troubling. And we would like to request board and legislative assistance in having the plans and approval reviewed so that we in our homes are safe.

Howard Chung

Hey, good evening, everybody. I'm a resident of CB6, and I strongly encourage the board to vote in favor of LTN pilot. Data from other pilots show that low traffic areas experience lower accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. This is a win for our community. Low traffic neighborhoods also encourage foot traffic, drawing residents out of their homes and into the community. CB6 can really take a proactive step toward building a community that is welcoming and inclusive of all residents and businesses.

In my professional life, I work with technology and population health. We regularly conduct pilot tests to validate whether our hypothesis is accurate when technology is deployed. We use anecdotes as clues in our investigations while being completely mindful of the dozens of biases. I strongly encourage the board to adopt a similar approach and use this LTN pilot to explore how traffic flow can be tweaked to benefit everyone in our community.

Sharon Suggs

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with Community Board 6 this evening. My name is Sharon Suggs, and I'm a proud co-op owner for 35 years. Our community consists of several buildings, and I'm here to speak for all the co-op owners. Especially our homeowners, who are comprised of older adults as well as the 5% who live with disabilities. Over the past 5 years, our maintenance fees have continued to rise, especially with the Local Law 97 placing an increasing burden on all of us homeowners, particularly older adults and those retired on fixed incomes. As mentioned before, Local Law 97 is approaching, and with the New York City local laws on the horizon, we are deeply concerned about the financial strain in these regulations will bring. Unfortunately, Social Security benefits and disability payments have not kept pace with these rising costs. Personally, I am disabled and I've experienced recent medical coverage cuts while many of my older adult neighbors are facing steep increases in their insurance premiums. If the maintenance fees continue to rise, our property taxes will likely follow. This will create an unsustainable situation for longtime residents, especially seniors, veterans, and those with disabilities. Who may be forced to leave the community that they call their home for decades. We respectfully ask for your support and advocacy on behalf of our vulnerable neighbors. Thank you for your time, attention, and continued service to our community.

The following comments were submitted in writing for the Minutes:

Melissa Duchan

I am a resident of Rego Park since 2021, and I am writing in support of implementing Low Traffic Neighborhoods in this area. Living across the street from the Rego Center mall, I am constantly dealing with polluted air, congestion, and nonstop honking. This negatively affects my quality of life and health. 11 people are injured every week in Rego Park and Forest Hills due to crashes. Reckless driving is common, and I often feel unsafe walking home from the R train at night due to blatant running of red lights. LTNs have been shown to reduce emissions and increase youth activity levels. Implementing LTNs will make the neighborhood safer with better quality of life for all.

Jae Yong Eom

My name is Jae, and I live at 67-104 Burns St. in Forest Hills. I am writing to leave a public comment in support of the Low Traffic Neighborhoods (LTN) Resolution in CB6. As the parent of 2 young boys, I am interested in the resolution because serious changes need to occur as our neighborhood grows. I want my children to grow up with the freedom to walk to school, ride their bikes to their friends' houses, and engage with our community without the risk that high traffic brings to their health and safety. Too often have I seen traffic build up near Austin St and Continental as well as Yellowstone Blvd and Queens Blvd, causing drivers to K turn into sidewalks and speed into their turns through crosswalks while crowds of people are going about their day. This reckless and lazy driving permeates to our residential streets such as the rampant double-parking and specifically the aggressiveness on 112th St, as cars blow through stop signs to reach the highways past Jewel Ave. The volume and resulting danger that traffic brings needs to be examined for everyone's safety. I hope that the LTN pilot is implemented in high foot traffic areas such as near PS144 and PS196, with the expectation that the program will expand to other parts of our neighborhood. Thank you very much for your time.

Dr. Ashley Castro

I'm writing as a resident of Forest Hills, soon-to-be parent, child psychologist, and asthma sufferer to express my support for making this a Low Traffic Neighborhood (LTN). Forest Hills is a beautiful neighborhood, that is green, safe, and peaceful--except for the cars. To outsiders it would be difficult to explain how much cars dominate the local

environment. We're surrounded by highways and bisected by Queens Boulevard, which might explain why this feels like a neighborhood of cars more than people. The overabundance of cars on residential streets contradicts Forest Hills' reputation as a peaceful and clean neighborhood. I live on 108th St, between 69th Road and Jewel Ave, all streets that are particularly congested with cars throughout most of the day. The impact for myself and my neighbors is constant exposure to an incredible amount of air and noise pollution. The incessant honking is confusing (what's the point?) and stressful. Every week or so I hear a car slam the breaks and screech to a halt. I wait to hear if it's followed by the horrible sounds of impact. A biker was hit by a car in front of my building a few months ago.

I'm concerned for how all of this will impact my newborn. As a psychologist, I know that air and noise pollution (in utero and early childhood) increase risk for psychosis, anxiety, and depression later in life (Newbury et al., 2024). The intersection at Jewel, Yellowstone, and Queens Boulevard is dangerous to cross on foot, and will be especially so with a stroller or small child. It seems like only a matter of time before there's a major pedestrian accident there. I hope that it doesn't involve my family. As I imagine where I'd like to raise my child, Forest Hills seems like an ideal neighborhood in many aspects. But it seems like I will need to be very selective about the streets we live and travel on if I want to protect myself and my child. I'm surprised that a neighborhood with such a high percentage of young families and elderly folks has not taken significant action to reduce traffic on residential streets. These are vulnerable populations that deserve the right to clean air and safe streets, even if it means that outsiders have a slightly less convenient route to their ultimate destination. As an asthma sufferer, I'm particularly sensitive to air pollution. Our neighborhood benefits from lots of greenery that lessens the impact of car pollution, and still we can do better. I think we owe it to all our residents to find ways to reduce the burden of cars on our daily lives. Forest Hills is unique and historic. It's a perfect neighborhood to pilot LTNs and set an example for the rest of the city of how great a neighborhood can truly be.

Allegra Kirkland

I couldn't make it to the community meeting tonight but wanted to send over a comment endorsing the proposal to make Forest Hills a low-traffic neighborhood. My family moved to Forest Hills from Bushwick last summer, eager to get away from some of the noise and traffic of our old neighborhood. While we love our new neighborhood, it's been frustrating to find that the vehicle congestion results in a lot of dangerous driving, honking, and crowded streets, especially on Austin Street. Forest Hills is a community home to many young kids and elderly people, and it makes a ton of sense to make it more friendly to pedestrians and de-prioritize cars, which can be re-routed to Queens Boulevard or other main thoroughfares.

Tatyana Artemova on behalf of Residents of Forest Hills, NYC

Residents appreciate that the committee has placed the topic of stadium noise violations on the agenda for discussion. Forest Hills Stadium operates within a residential zoning district, and the NYC Noise Code establishes permissible sound limits based on zoning classification, with compliance measured at the receiving residential property. The Department of Environmental Protection has issued violations under the residential provisions of the Noise Code. Those violations are currently being contested through the administrative process, but the existing Noise Code remains in effect. Residents are therefore seeking clarification regarding how regulatory standards are being applied in practice. In particular, residents would appreciate clarification regarding the legal basis for sound permit thresholds 75 dB reportedly issued by the New York City Police Department and how those permits are reconciled with the residential limits established in the Noise Code. Residents also hope the committee will examine broader environmental impacts associated with stadium events, including post-event noise after residential quiet hours and transportation impacts on surrounding residential streets.

Chair Baida thanked all public speakers and shared that Community Board 6 values all that community members share with us. Chair Baida explained that throughout each month, multiple committee meetings address concerns that have been brought forth, that folks are researching and communicating about concerns raised, and that our District Manager is in constant communication with City Agencies seeking information and answers and finding ways to collaborate.

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes for February 11, 2026, was made by Howard Birnbaum and was seconded by Pedro Rodriguez. All were in favor.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Salua Baida reported the following:

- We had a Queens Borough Board Meeting, where all the chairs across Queens sit down with Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. The topic for this month was to review and approve the budget that the QBP will be submitting to City Hall. They allowed us to share any concerns or any highlights or any edits to language that we thought was missing from the budget as was presented. I made the following suggestions:
 - They did adopt some of the language that Christine submitted for us, regarding crossing guards. To make sure that there was an increase in crossing guards and one of the things that I pointed out to QBP was to have specific language requesting salary increase in the budget, as opposed to, you know, other amorphous words that could also cover it, but can we ask for an increase in salary? As you all know, when you talk to people who are either current crossing guards or candidates, that is what always comes up, that it's just insufficient, to both hire and to retain folks.
 - There was a push for an increase in capital funding regarding sewer improvements and catch basin cleanings and things of the sort. I asked that there be clarification and specific language also regarding studies, about pitching of streets. What happens is over time, on so many of our streets, the catch basin may be perfectly clean but because of the wear and tear on roads, the water is just going a completely different direction over the years. Please send over to Christine and myself, any photos that you may have. If you see any sort of ponding conditions, please snap a picture, send the intersection and let us know.
- Christine and I met with Councilmember Phil Wong. We talked about Alderton Street Safety Improvements, the Rego Park Library (requesting more days and evening hours).
- We had a meeting with developers regarding potential development at Queens Boulevard and 67 Avenue). They've filed an application with DCP. They are not in public review. They are not even in pre-certification. It was merely an informational meeting. And nevertheless, we shared with them, we heard them out. We shared with them many of the concerns and cares that our community and our board members have shared. While many of us acknowledge the housing crisis, we will demand infrastructure that matches the developmental density that folks are trying to bring in. We shared that our communities deserve development that is contextual, that is on scale, that fits. We shared our desire for spaces that include the community, that reflect the community for third spaces, meeting spaces, and many other amenities and public services that, if there is development, we want it to be development that serves the community. Rather than simply harming the community and helping only developers.

Martha Tucker had the following question / comment in response to Salua's report: Northwell Health purchased the huge building on 63rd Drive. My concern is that such a huge property in a position where it's a major transit hub for it to be a major hospital, I think it's going to be harmful to the community in so many ways. I think we really need to examine it more, see how it's going to be used, and what the repercussions are.

Peter Beadle, Land Use and Housing Chair responded: Northwell Health purchased the property and they're going to develop it, presumably, but unknown, as a medical development. But we should also be very careful and not create news here. We don't know right now what their plans are or intend to be, but we do know, though, is that is a large piece of land that we have needs in this community that maybe, since Northwell's

been such a great community partner with us, there might be opportunities for some synergism so that some of the needs we have can be incorporated into whatever they end up developing. Salua and Christine have already reached out to Northwell to start that conversation. We don't know what these timelines look like, we don't know if we're getting to this before we break in June, or if this is a project for the fall, but at some point, the goal is to get them to our committee so that we can start having this conversation and visioning. Hopefully, this develops along a line that ends up being beneficial to all of us in the community. Northwell has been a great partner with us so far, and hopefully that continues. At this time, we don't know if they will be building as of right or will require a variance.

Board Members spoke about the crossing guard situation:

- Maybe it could be a full-time position instead of a part-time position and have them do administrative tasks as well.
- Schools should consider school streets as an option as well

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

First, DM Nolan commented on the comments above:

- School streets are a good option for some schools but may not work in all schools in our district
- The issue of asking crossing guards to do administrative tasks is a union issue. There are already school aides in the schools that do that work.

We will continue pushing the city and elected officials to find creative ways to make our schools safe.

District Manager Christine Nolan reported the following:

- I hope this is the last time I have to speak about snow removal during my report until next winter, but we did have a significant snowstorm since we all met last. I want to thank DSNY and all the other city agencies that worked to remove the snow from the streets, crosswalks, bus stops, etc. We received a lot of positive feedback. Also, thank you all that sent us in reports of issues.
- Along with winter weather comes potholes. It was reported by DOT at my meeting yesterday that about half of the total potholes in NYC are in Queens. If you see a pothole, send us the locations, the 311 number and a photo if possible. We will send it to the Queens Commissioners office and hopefully it will get filled quickly.
- I testified at the Queens Borough President's Budget Hearings on behalf of Community Board 6. This is a chance to highlight some of our budget priorities in a short 4 minutes. My focus was on affordable housing and infrastructure. I talked about the need for a holistic land use study of our Community Board as well as the need for affordable housing, senior housing and supportive housing. I spoke about the need to maintain and upgrade infrastructure to go along with this housing such as school seats, sewers, transit, etc. Lastly, I spoke about the importance of recruiting and retaining school crossing guards and the need for additional mobile library service at the Rego Park Library.
- We received responses from the city agencies from our Budget Requests. I will send those out this week so keep an eye out.
- The Aging, Health, Recovery Services Committee is hosting a Domestic Violence Informational Webinar in conjunction with Safe Horizon on March 23, 2026, at 7:00pm. Please attend to learn more and spread the word.
- To increase community engagement, we need Board Members' help. Follow us on social media, and when we send something out, we need all of you to share with your neighbors, friends, and community groups.

HONORING JOHN DERESZEWSKI

Chair Baida took a moment to acknowledge John Dereszewski, a board member who has served on CB6 for the past 22 years and was most recently Chair of the By-Law Committee and on the Executive Board. Chair

Baida added This is not “Goodbye”. This is just “Thank You” to John. He will continue to mentor us here and share his balancing insights as an at-large member”. Chair Baida presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

John Derezewski was surprised and grateful for this recognition and said a few words about his time on the board. He ended with “There are a lot of issues here and we will continue to work on them”.

COMMUNITY HELPERS SPOTLIGHT – CENTRAL QUEENS JEWISH COMMUNITY CIRCLE

My name is Mushki Mendelson. I'm the founder of Central Queens Jewish Community Circle, CQJCC. My husband and I have lived in Forest Hills since 2005, where he serves Congregation Mechane Chodosh on 108 Street. Over the years, we began noticing a quiet change in our community. Many older adults were experiencing increased loneliness as their career ends, as families move away, and as community programs become less accessible.

In response, we founded CQJCC in 2019, with a mission to reach out and support homebound and isolated neighbors. One of our core initiatives is the Neighbor Ambassador Program. Today, 120 neighbors receive culturally appropriate gift packages and friendly visits six times a year. These visits are more than deliveries; they are moments of connection. Our volunteers become trusted points of contact who share information about resources, workshops, and community events. For many recipients, simply knowing that someone cares makes a meaningful difference.

The need continues to grow. Our waiting list for these packages has already exceeded the capacity of our current volunteer team. During the pandemic, CQJCC hosted wellness webinars addressing topics such as financial health and mental health. Today, we continue this work through in-person workshops and community education programs. Recently, we co-hosted a scam alert event with Assemblyman Sam Berger's office, the Queen's District Attorney's Office and Con Edison. Last summer, a volunteer psychologist donated her Sundays to meet with community members. A volunteer life coach specializing in grief support will continue that effort. Later this year, we plan to introduce in-person support groups facilitated by social work interns, something that has largely disappeared locally since COVID.

CQJCC is committed to ensuring that our most vulnerable neighbors remain connected, supported, and able to live with dignity in the community that they call home.

TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC TRANSIT, STREET SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBORHOOD RESOLUTION

Karla Fuentes and Sabah Munawar, the Low Traffic Neighborhood Subcommittee Chairs presented the background for the resolution to the Board.

- The presentation showed a grid layout of our city. While efficient, it turns quiet neighborhood streets into busy highways because non-local commuters and trucks will bypass main roads for side streets, since side streets tend to have fewer traffic lights than main roads. Modern navigation apps like Google Maps and Waze are exasperating this by directing drivers through local streets, which is leading to increased cut-through traffic. This transformation affects our neighborhood, making them less safe and community friendly. They provided examples of this.
- Over the past decade, Queens Community District 6 has experienced an average of 11 injuries every week because of car crashes. Tragically, there are also two fatalities each year. A staggering 70% of these fatalities involve pedestrians and bike users. They showed a map that shows every crash that has happened in our district in the past 10 years.
- The solution is Low Traffic Neighborhoods. Low Traffic Neighborhoods or LTNs, are a set of street treatments over a large area that are coordinated to minimize and eliminate cut-through traffic in residential areas/neighborhood side streets. LTNs not only discourage cut-through traffic, but they also encourage other modes of transportation, such as walking and biking and in some cases, buses. LTNs can be built to prioritize bus traffic. The presentation included some examples of how LTN's can be built: All streets allow cut-through traffic from the large boundary road that surrounds this little neighborhood.

Examples of boundary roads are Queens Boulevard and Woodhaven Boulevard and the highways. Some of the treatments of an LTN, a school and a park have become a shared space with no through traffic. Cars can still enter the area from the boundary roads but can't drive through it. If a car can't successfully cut through to save time, the apps will not direct them to drive through. In addition, pedestrians and bikes can move through the area freely.

- The presentation included examples of designs that filter the type of traffic that can come into a neighborhood. Cars are diverted out while people and bikes are coming in. There are some LTNs that have bus filters that will allow buses to go through but not actually cars. There are shared street options where cars can enter, but they drive and drive through, but there's treatments like chicanes, which have been installed to slow them down. That will impact the apps that try to tell cars that it's faster to cut through a local street.
- LTNs have been implemented in London for over 5 years and there has been a significant amount of research into their impact. Here are some of the findings: Safer streets, improved air quality, a drop in traffic of close to 50% (that includes a drop in traffic from outside of the LTN), a decrease in crime between 10% to 18%, a 25% increase in active travel, such as walking or biking.
- The benefits for CB6 would be safer roads for everyone, more kids being able to walk or bike to school or to playgrounds, less traffic on our local roads, more active travel, a higher quality of life for everyone, and more community building all around the neighborhood. And this is why we believe that an LTN could be a wonderful solution to the traffic issues that this neighborhood has been dealing with for decades.

A discussion took place amongst board members.

A friendly amendment was presented to include the residents to offer comments and concerns before moving forward with DOT in picking LTN locations. This friendly amendment was withdrawn after more discussion.

A second friendly amendment was presented to change the word “pilot” to “study.” This amendment clarifies and requests that the DOT study whether this is something that is appropriate for the neighborhood. The motion was seconded and a roll call was taken. 12-Yes; 20-No and 1-Abstain. Motion failed.

Discussion on the motion was:

- We are asking DOT as a community, we value our children, our whole community, our elderly people, and everyone. Being able to safely walk down the street without trucks speeding down streets because Queens Boulevard is backed up. What we are asking is for DOT to figure out how we can make this community safer, not by asking for a study by saying we want this, we want you to use your data to tell us where the best place is to do it. That's why we did not identify a location.
- To conduct a pilot program, to establish, install, develop a pilot program, DOT must create a study. They will not create a pilot program without studying the area in general and then identifying those places first.
- There is no need to water down this resolution to request a study first. This resolution does not demand that DOT implement a pilot program. It expresses support for one. It then asks DOT to come in and evaluate the patterns of traffic to see if that's feasible. We don't need to first do a study, then come back and ask for this. What we're asking DOT is to take the request seriously, because there is very real data that this significantly makes our streets safer.

A third friendly amendment was presented to add a fourth bullet under “Therefore it is resolved,” for DOT work with DEP on increased stormwater management in these areas of the pilot program. In our district, when it rains heavily, basements flood, a lot of backyards are paved over; you don't have a lot of green space. The friendly amendment was accepted.

The following points were brought up about the resolution:

- One negative effect of LTN is an increase in bike theft.

- There was a study by Oxford in London, where they tried to implement this, they found that while traffic within LTN boundaries declined about 50%, it increased by as much as 7% on boundary roads. That increased pollution and congestion on already busy roads. Increased longer travel times for residence and commuters, and it increased delays for emergency services.
- There are no LTNs in New York currently. There are also zones and safe zones, but the way LTN is technically defined as in European cities, this would be the first one in New York City. This is a significant pioneering request.
- If certain things work in London, it doesn't mean that they work the same here. Some things could be very similar, some things could be very different, and I think that is very important to keep in mind when we do such studies.

The Board voted on the motion to approve the LTN resolution, 23-Yes; 9-No and 1-Abstain.

WHEREAS,

- *Queens Community District 6 has strong transit connections, including an LIRR station and multiple bus and subway lines.*
- *Queens Community District 6 has seen significant population growth over the last decade, with further growth expected, and without a significant shift away from private cars, which has led to increased congestion and decreased street safety.*
- *Street safety, schools, and senior centers were the top District Needs for Queens Community District 6 in 2026¹, highlighting the district's high number of children and senior citizens and its street safety concerns.*
- *Queens CB6 has requested traffic studies, Open Streets, and other street safety treatments in budget priorities for many years.²*
- *Between 2014 and 2024, Queens Community District 6 experienced, on average, 11 injuries every week and 2 fatalities every year due to car crashes. Over 70% of the fatalities were pedestrians or bike users.³*
- *Emergency vehicle travel times have increased significantly, primarily due to traffic⁴.*
- *Approximately 30% of trips in Queens CB6 are through the neighborhood and do not stop within it.⁵*
- *Low Traffic Neighborhoods (LTNs) are a neighborhood approach to traffic management that redirects cut-through traffic away from residential areas through measures such as traffic diverters, one-way conversions, school streets, parklets, bike boulevards, and more.*
- *Low Traffic Neighborhoods can complement and strengthen micromobility infrastructure while reducing the need for costly Capital reconstruction.*
- *LTNs are inexpensive to implement and, over time, save the city money through the health benefits.⁶*
- *London neighborhoods with LTNs saw a 46.9% reduction in car volume inside the neighborhood, and even traffic on the boundary roads decreased slightly.⁷*
- *Other than reducing traffic, LTNs provide many other benefits, evidenced by the results in London's LTNs:⁸*
 - *A 50% reduction in car-related casualties*
 - *A reduction in crime of up to 18%*
 - *A decrease of emissions in both the neighborhood and on boundary roads, 5.7% and 9%, respectively*
- *LTNs boost active travel, leading to health benefits such as increased life expectancy, reduced mortality, and fewer sick days. Active travel went up by 25% for people living in LTNs.⁹*

¹[Statements of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2026: Queens Community District 6](#)

²[Queens Community Board 6 Profile](#)

³[Crashmapper data for Queens CB6 from Jan 2014 to Dec 2024](#)

⁴Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Gridlock Sam Schwartz, [Analysis of NYC Traffic Congestion and Emergency Response Times](#), 2024

⁵[Analysis of Queens CD6 traffic data from Aug 2025 using TomTom MOVE's O/D Analysis](#), by Pedro Rodriguez

⁶Aldred, Rachel, Anna Goodman, and James Woodcock. "[Impacts of Active Travel Interventions on Travel Behaviour and Health: Results from a Five-Year Longitudinal Travel Survey in Outer London](#)." *Journal of Transport & Health* 35 (March 2024): 101771.; Postaria, R. "Superblock (Superilla) Barcelona—a City Redefined." *World Cities Forum*, 2021.

⁷Transport for London. "[The Impacts of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in London: A Summary of Evidence](#)." London: Transport for London, 2024.

⁸Mueller, Natalie, David Rojas-Rueda, Haneen Khreis, Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, David Rojas-Rueda, and Mueller Natalie. "[Changing the Urban Design of Cities for Health: The Superblock Model](#)." *Environment International* 134 (2020): 105132.

⁹Aldred, Rachel, Anna Goodman, and James Woodcock. "[Impacts of Active Travel Interventions on Travel Behaviour and Health: Results from a Five-Year Longitudinal Travel Survey in Outer London](#)." *Journal of Transport & Health* 35 (March 2024): 101771.

THEFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT *Queens Community Board 6*

- *Hereby expresses its full support for a pilot program of Low Traffic Neighborhoods in Queens CB6, and requests that DOT evaluate the current patterns of cut-through traffic in the neighborhood.*
- *Requests that the DOT start with streets around schools, senior centers, and facilities for people with disabilities.*
- *Requests that DOT work with the board and the transportation committee to ensure that all plans include sufficient public input. As well as consult with FDNY, EMS, NYPD, and other relevant agencies at all design phases to preserve emergency access at all times.*
- *Requests that DOT work with DEP on increased stormwater management in these areas of the pilot program.*

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

1. ART OF GRILL, 97-13 QUEENS BLVD, R.P. *Class Change*
2. THE COTTAGE TAVERN, 108-07 72ND AVE, F.H. *Method of Operation Change

RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

1. BOMBAY GRILL HOUSE, 71-51 YELLOWSTONE BLVD, F.H.
2. KANTU PERUVIAN CUISINE, 105-05, 105-07 METROPOLITAN AVE, F.H.
3. THE DINERBAR , 97-45 QUEENS BLVD, R.P.
4. REEF, 108-02 72ND AVE, F.H.
5. BLOOM BOTANICAL BISTRO, 103-19 METROPOLITAN AVE, F.H.

Gladys Sandoval the co-chair of the Consumer Affairs, Cultural Affairs, Economic Development committee, listed each new liquor license and each renewal liquor license. The Art of the Grill is a class change, it was previously approved for beer, wine, and cider and now the applicants are adding liquor. The Cottage Taven is changing the method of Operation Change and requesting to change their closing time from 2 am to 4 am. The 112th Precinct noted that most nearby bars already close at 4am. All of them have been reviewed by the 112th Precinct and reported no issues or concerns. A 311 search was done and there were no issues either. The Consumer Affairs, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development Committee voted to approve the new and renewal of liquor license applications.

A voice vote was taken for the new liquor licenses; all were in favor. A voice vote was taken for the renewal of liquor licenses; all were in favor.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Eliana Swell reported the following:

Here are some highlights of budget updates:

- 5 million allotted for a reintegration pilot program: reduce recidivism and homelessness among formerly incarcerated individuals
- 1.9 million allotted for Child Care Facilitated Enrollment Program: helps working families in NYC and select regions that afford quality childcare by simplifying the application process and expanding eligibility.
- 73 million allotted to NYC 2 care: aiming for universal access regardless of income, zip code, or immigration status within four years

OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes reported the following:

- Christy Noem was fired as DHS Secretary
- Our office sent a letter to the head of the Queens Public Library asking for more mobile office hours for the Rego Park Library and we received a response. They said unfortunately, they don't have the resources to provide that right now. We will stay on top of that and check back in, in a few months.
- We will have weekend office hours on Sunday, March 22nd from 10am to 1pm in our Flushing office. We alternate offices each month.
- Congresswoman's Art Contest is underway. It is open to 7th to 12th graders; the winner of the contest has their artwork hung in the U.S. Capitol for a whole year and they come down to Washington for a big ceremony. The deadline is April 17th, if you know any aspiring artists, young artists, please encourage them to enter. Three years ago, the winner was a high school student from Rego Park.

OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER PHIL WONG

Charles Vavruska reported the following:

- Is having an event called Having Conversations with the Councilman on March 25th at 7pm in his office on 69th Street in Maspeth.
- Councilman Wong has been working on a battery storage plant in the Middle Village area which is not your area. The company Nine Dot is locating this plant directly across from an elementary school and across the street from residential houses. It is within 100 feet of residential houses. He found a constituent that was willing to pay them the full price of the land and found another place in an industrial area near the Brooklyn-Queens border that they could put their facility. They looked at it, and they came back, and they said, no, they are going to put it in Middle Village anyway." Even though the community doesn't want it there. Companies like Nine Dot are putting these things in residential areas, where they don't belong and they are not being very community friendly when they're rejecting the community's input when they're getting fully restored for that cost, and finding a better location for it. They still refuse to do it, because they really don't care about the community.

OFFICE OF COUNCILWOMAN LYNN SCHULMAN

Kevin McAleer reported the following:

- Preliminary budget hearings have started, and Council Member is figuring out how to close the budget gap that our city is facing.
- Council Member Schulman is the chair of the Health Committee. She held a hearing about vaccine access and wants to ensure that everybody has access to vaccines should they need them.

OFFICE OF QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

Jacqueline Rozado reported the following:

- There are many frauds and scams across our borough, state and country. Particularly the financial exploitation of seniors. It is the top priority of the Fraud Bureau. If you or someone you know suspects have been a victim of fraud, please note two key resources offered by us, which is a consumer fraud helpline to report on scams, fraud, and economic crimes. The number is 718-286-6673. The elder fraud helpline to report the financial exploitation of seniors is 718-286-6578.
- If you have any concerns about home order protections, illegal smoke shops or any other concerns, you contact us at Civicawareness@queensda.org
- In recognition of Women's History Month, we are hosting the Annual Women's History Month celebration in partnership with the Center for Women of New York. This event will take place on Thursday, March 26th, at Borough Hall in the Helen Marshall Cultural Center. Please RSVP and sign up for our online newsletter, offering additional events and information at Queensda.org.

OFFICE OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero reported the following:

- On Wednesday, March 18th at 5:30pm, we will be hosting our Annual Black History Month celebration
- On Thursday, March 19th, we will be having a women and independent filmmaking breakfast at 9am, at LaGuardia Community College Poolside Cafe. This is free.
- On Thursday, March 19th, we will be celebrating American Heritage Celebration at Borough Hall at 6pm.
- On Monday, March 23rd at 6pm, we will have our Bangladesh Independence celebration.
- On Wednesday, March 25th at 6pm, we have our annual EID celebration.
- We are hosting our Spring Egg Hunt and Family Resource Fair on Saturday, March 28th at 1pm. You can RSVP at Queensbp.nyc.gov.

STATE SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS

Mercedes Jennings reported the following:

- As Senator Gianaris announced last month, he made the decision not to run for re-election for the upcoming term and retire at the end of his term. Senator Gianaris has dedicated 25 years of his life to public service, serving 11 years on the assembly and the past 14 years on the state Senate.
- The Senator continues to work diligently on passing our state budget and legislation that constituents in the district need. Issues like protecting democratic elections, immigration, universal childcare, Medicaid/affordable health insurance options, and funding for educational programs for our youth. Please feel free to contact our office if you need an appointment to speak about budgetary or legislative needs.
- Real ID DMV Event is still in the works. We are working aimlessly with the DMV to see if we can do another pop-up event in the Spring of 2026. We will continue to keep you posted.
- Our office continues to work with the office for pupil transportation (OPT) to help with establishing new stops and/or ensuring buses arrive on time and have consistent schedules in place for consistent pick-up times for kids. OPT has presented to various CEC's (Community Education Councils) in the district about their efforts to improve busing service due to the significant volume of complaints from schools, parents/guardians, and elected officials' offices. They're planning on rolling out these new plans this current school year (2025-2026). Additionally, our office has been working in collaboration with OPT & the MTA to ensure that the design for the Student OMNY card for the 2026-2027SY (School Year) is more durable to weather conditions so there is less need to get replacements.
- Our office has helped with tracking the implementation of the Queens Bus Redesign. The Senator has also been successful in ensuring that stops that were supposed to be removed from several bus routes in the district remain due to constituents with disabilities or children who attend schools near stops that have shown hardship if the stop is removed. The MTA has been trying to remove some of these stops and the Senator remains on the side of constituents who need these stops to remain. Please continue to contact our office if you receive notices that bus stops will be removed that service a lot of children, students, seniors, and people with disabilities. We are continuing to advocate to prevent stops being removed for those who will have significant hardship to their commute as a result.
- Our office continues to work with the MTA to see if any complaints that we received from constituents about OMNY cards are being resolved as the OMNY card system becomes fully implemented. Our office is still working with OMNY to ensure that half fare cards work properly and are not charging constituents full fare prices while commuting. Also please note that buses will stop taking change sometime in the Spring of 2026. Our office will continue providing follow up to CB6 on OMNY card implementation as it rolls out in 2026.
- Reminder: Since September 2025, our new office location is 37-18 Northern Blvd, LIC, NY 11101. Please feel free to contact us at [718-728-0960](tel:718-728-0960)/646-598-8583 or email us at either jennings@nysenate.gov or gianaris@nysenate.gov.

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER CATALINA CRUZ

Jessica Cortes reported the following:

- We are hosting a Standby Guardianship Community Clinic with NYLAG at our office.
- We are also hosting a Latino Heritage Community Skate.
- We have a tax prep on April 9th and April 10th with Emerald Isle. You can call our office at 718-458-5367 to schedule an appointment.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Baida announced that Keith Engel and Brently Winstead are moving outside of the district and thus not renewing their community board membership. She thanked them both for their service to the board, Brently on the Consumer Affairs, Cultural Affairs, Economic Development Committee, and Keith on the Land Use and Housing Committee and the Executive Board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

Minutes are submitted by Michelle Hettich.

Meeting recordings are posted on YouTube (www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube).

Meeting minutes are posted on the CB6 website (<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb6/indexpage>).

CB6 VOTING SHEET 3/11/26	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATONS	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS	LTN RESOLUTION PROPOSAL (change the word Pilot to Study)	LTN RESOLUTION
EDGAR ALFONSECA	↓	↓	NO	YES
DAVID ARONOV	↓	↓	YES	NO
ROBERT ASHE	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
ANISIA AYON	↓	↓	YES	YES
SALUA BAIDA	↓	↓	YES	YES
KAVISH BATRA	↓	↓	YES	NO
PETER BEADLE	↓	↓	NO	YES
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	↓	↓	NO	NO
L.T. CIACCIO	↓	↓	NO	YES
KANDRA CLARK	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
LATRICE DAVIS	↓	↓	NO	YES
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	↓	↓	YES	YES
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	A	A	NO	YES
KEITH ENGEL	L	L	NO	YES
ALEM FERATOVIC	L	L	YES	YES
KARLA FUENTES	↓	↓	NO	YES
NICHOLAS GALIPEAU	↓	↓	NO	YES
TAMARA GAVRIELOF	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
ANDY GUO	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
KAREN IMAS	↓	↓	YES	NO
SARINA JAIN	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
NILE JOHNSON	↓	↓	NO	YES
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
MARK LASTER	↓	↓	NO	YES
PAT MORGAN	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
SABAH MUNAWAR	I	I	NO	YES
JOI PRATT	N	N	NO	NO
RAJ PUNJABI	↓	↓	NO	YES
DIANA RACHNAEV	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
GARRI RIVKIN	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
LIZ ROBINS	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
PEDRO RODRIGUEZ	F	F	NO	YES
SHARI ROLNICK	A	A	ABSTAIN	ABSTAIN
GLADYS SANDOVAL	V	V	NO	YES
DAVID SCHANTZ	O	O	NO	YES
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	R	R	NO	YES
AMIT PRATAP SHAH	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
EUGENE SHVARTSMAN	↓	↓	YES	NO
JEAN C. SILVA	↓	↓	YES	YES
DANIEL SOLOW	↓	↓	NO	YES
LOU TECPANECATL	↓	↓	NO	NO
MARTHA TUCKER	↓	↓	YES	NO
DIANA WALCOTT	↓	↓	YES	YES
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
EPHRAIM ZAKRY	↓	↓	YES	NO
TOTALS:	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR	YES - 12; NO - 20; ABSTAIN - 1	YES - 23; NO - 9; ABSTAIN - 1