



FRED R. GUINTA
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Community Board 2
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

Full Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: January 20, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Joan & Alan Bernikow JCC of Staten Island, 1466 Manor Road, Staten Island, NY 10314

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81655035230?pwd=IjizQdVIX4jXNZ5ALKoai9uPtq4SI6.1>

Watch on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/thEBDzGC-mw?feature=share>

Community Board 2 Full Board meetings are conducted in person, with remote access available via Zoom. To ensure broader public accessibility, meetings are also live streamed on YouTube and broadcast on Community Media Television (CMS).

Chair Fred Guinta called the Full Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the attendance roll call conducted by the Second Vice Chair Rosanne Clift. Upon completion of the roll call, Ms. Clift announced that a quorum was present. 2. Roll Call / Attendance - Rosanne Clift, Second Vice Chair

Board Members Present:

Shawn Abraham

Olu Ajayi

Valerie Aliffi-Maroney

Igor Baboshkin

Tom Backis

Rosanne Clift

Dr. Cognata

Roy Garlisi

Fred Guinta

Michael Lanza

Michael Lanza

Florida Qello

Leutrim Qoku

Dr. Ram Raju

Jerry Ruggiero

Dr. Donna Seminara

Joseph Torres

Steven Zboinski

Board Members Absent:

Marc Alvarez

Ben D'Amato

Sandy DiTrapani

Andrew Guido

Gurdev Kang

Dr. Allan Perel

Stephen Zaderiko

Representatives of Elected Officials Present:

State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton – Vincent Lepani

State Assembly Member Michael Tannousis – Amalia Kostalas

State Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo – Nick Robbins

NYS Assembly Republican Representative – Hanan Djabat

Richmond County District Attorney – Elizabeth Bianco

Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella – Marie Carmody-LaFrancesca

City Council Speaker Julie Menin – Vanesa Limani

City Council Minority Leader David Carr – Justin Bolusi

City Council Member Frank Morano – Frank Rapacciuolo

Chair Fred Guinta requested a motion to approve the proposed agenda. The motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Fred Guinta called for a motion to accept the December 16, 2025 Full Board Meeting Minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Speaker Session: (speaking time is limited to 2 minutes)

Vincent Lepani– Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

We had 33 veteran bills passed in the Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee. Now, on to this year with some legislative updates. January 7th was the first day of the legislative session. We'll keep you updated with any legislative news regarding the senator's work for Staten Island within the Veterans Committee in her capacity as chair.

Additionally, Governor Hockul announced on December 17th that she would sign the Medical Aid and Dying Act into law. After coming to an agreement with the New York State Legislature on additional safety, guardrails. And, the senator was a co-sponsor of this legislation in New York State Senate and was a staunch advocate for its passing.

Now, I'd like to talk a little bit about local initiatives and funding. Over 15 different organizations received New York State Council of the Arts funding, including the Friends of Alice Austin House, the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, and the Riverside Opera Company. Additionally, New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program, Analysis, St, Elizabeth's, Manor, and Park Hill all received regional economic development council funding.

Lastly, I'd like to touch upon some of our upcoming events. We have our mobile offices weekly. The flyers are on the podium. We have our department of finance event, which is to assist qualifying homeowners who are either seniors or disabled individuals who qualify for the senior citizen homeowner exemption or the disabled homeowners exemption with their application. Whether they are new to the program or need assistance, we're there to help. You must bring your ID and 2024 tax returns. and this will take place on February 12th from 12 to 3 at the St. George Library.

We are also having the 18th anniversary commemoration of Kosova Independence at the New York State Capitol on February 2 at 12 p.m. And lastly, we have the youth leadership recognition awards, which honor outstanding students who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership potential. And. All submissions can be submitted to our website by February 28th. All the information that I said here, we have flyers up there if you didn't catch anything. And as always, I'll, be here until the end. If anyone has any questions.

Jermaine Williams, Ambassador, SI NYPD

So, first I want to say happy new year to everybody. I hope everybody's, doing well. Real quick, I was on vacation, so I don't have too much to report, But I do thank the DA's office for always going before me because they always highlight on crime statistics and also things going on safety wise in the communities. We do have our citizen police academy coming up for the spring. If anybody's interested. It is six courses in the program which is from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We will drive any individual, that's interested in going to the academy at assigned destination pickup and drop off. So if anybody is interested in attending, please reach out to me at 917-8266797 or your local or nearest precinct, and you can speak to anybody in community affairs and they'll update you and take information from there. Other than that, I want to stay safe and stay warm. Thank you so much.

Nick, Robbins -Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo

The Assemblyman's on the call tonight and I believe he'll, be speaking probably later on during the public session. I'll let him do most of the speaking. However, I did want to flag for everyone that our office in partnership with the Citizen Preparedness Corps and the New York National Guard, will be hosting a citizen preparedness training on Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at the JCC. It's in the room you guys are sitting in right now. The course will include information about the types of risks and hazards people face in their everyday lives. It will help people develop individual and household readiness plans, and the guard will also be putting together disaster preparedness kits that people can take with them. If you please reach out to our office any time to give us a call to get ahead on that and we'll have official information for when you can register for that, because we anticipate that will be filling up.

Hanan Djabat – NY State Assembly Representative

Good evening, everyone. Just wanted to wish you all a happy new, year, It is nice to have Nick with us. I just wanted to let everybody know that our New York State Assembly Minority Conference delegation will be hosting another year of Valentine's for veterans for the upcoming Valentine's Day season. So, anyone that's interested in submitting Valentine's Day cards for our local veterans, please drop them off at your respective Assembly Members office or give them a call. It's Assemblyman, Mike, Riley, Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo, and Assemblyman Michael Tannousis. Thank you, guys and hopefully see you next month.

Amalia – Assembly Member Michael Tannousis

I just have a few quick updates for you. Today, the Assembly Member hosted a press, conference. I'm just going to read the press release which highlighted new legislation amending New York State's cannabis law to strengthen protections for children and families by prohibiting cannabis, retail storefronts within 500 ft of a school. Assembly Member Tannousis was joined by Senator Jessica Scarcella Spanton, along with Councilman David Carr. Um, and they will outline how legislation closes loopholes in the state's cannabis framework and responds to growing concerns from parents and community members about marijuana businesses operating near schools. Assembly Member Tannousis will emphasize the need for clear, enforceable safeguards that put children and families and neighborhood standards first and call on state leaders to take swift action to address shortcomings in the New York cannabis roll out, So basically, we're going to be introducing legislation to include in OCM's cannabis, Their definition of a school does not include nurseries and daycare centers. So, this new legislation will include nurseries and daycares and

prevent cannabis shops from opening within 500 ft of those schools. Um, as always, I'll be here till the end of the meeting. If you guys have any concerns.

State Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo

Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo

Thank you for letting me zoom in. I wanted to just stop by. I was talking to some constituents who were asking me about my attendance and attendance at these community board meetings. I do believe that they are extremely vital for everyone on Staten Island. So, I wanted to sign in tonight just so I could say hello. And trust me, if you could see me right now, I'm sitting in my office, and there are a lot of events up here this evening and that's why we have people like Nick or Kathleen come to the community board events just so they can hear what you have to say. So, I really appreciate everything that you do and I don't want you to think that it goes unnoticed. If you ever have any questions reach out to me. And I'd even like to extend an invitation to you as a community board if some of the members of a group would like to come and visit me up in Albany with some of the other assembly members that are here. We'd be more than happy to give you a tour and show you what we do up here in Albany. We can bring you to the floor, introduce you on the floor and we can discuss a lot of the topics or priorities, you know, that you may have for Staten Island. So, if there are any questions, you know, normally I'll take a question or two if you don't mind if it's okay with you. I don't really want to extend your meeting too long, but you know, I am here for you and I took some time out this evening just so I could attend this meeting by Zoom.

6. Officer's Reports:

Treasurer: Roy J. Garlisi - Treasurer Roy J. Garlisi reported the Financial Report for the month of December 2025 is complete and accurate. A copy of the report is available for review and is maintained on official record at the Board Office

7. Standing Committee:

Land Use: Ben D'Amato

Committee Chair Ben D'Amato reported on the June 6, 2026 committees meeting

The land use committee met in an open discussion on a property located at 374, Greeley Avenue and Sanilac Street in Midland Beach. Present at the meeting was the Midland Beach civic president, and vice president, along with representatives from the Borough President's office and Council Member Carr's and Council Member Tannousis' office. Also present at the meeting was the land developer and owner, Chris Stout. The developer is proposing to build 10, two family homes where one stands. The community is very concerned with the overdevelopment and the impact to the community's infrastructure and parking in the surrounding areas. The New City of Yes is contributing to the overdevelopment with added FAR and little to no parking requirements. It is community boards 2's position to do what is in best interest of the community and strongly opposes the over development of the 374 Greeley Avenue property.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business: None

10. Adjournment: Upon a regular motion made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was officially adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred R. Guinta, Chair
Community Board 2