



*Donovan Richards  
Queens Borough President*

# Community Board No. 2

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*Anatole Ashraf  
Chairperson  
Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager*

You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@queenscb2>

June 6, 2024

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

*This meeting was held in person and teleconferenced on Zoom.*

### **Board Members – Present:**

*Amparo Abel-Bey, Nellie Afshar (PV), Anatole Ashraf, John Bahia, Karesia Batan, Nick Berkowitz, Kat Bloomfield (PV), Danielle Brecker, Carlos Castell Croke, Osman Chowdhury, Stephen Cooper, Warren Davis (PV), Lisa Deller, Morry Galonoy, Somnath Ghimire, Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos, Alexandra Gonzalez, Camille Gray, Kenneth Greenberg, Mohammad Hossen, Christine Hunter, Lelin Kandel, Badrun Khan, Diana Kichler, Prameet Kumar, Chhemang Lama, Patrick Martinez, Thomas Mituzas, Eric Narburgh, Andie Olivares, Zeeshan Ott (PV), Reilly Owens, Jolly Patel, Oumaya Saab (PV), Laura Shepard, Ryan Smith, Caroline Spitzer, Lauren Springer, Akello Thomas, Mary Torres (PV), Mai Tran, Leticia Vasquez, Michael Zoorob*

### **Board Members – Absent:**

**Unexcused:** *Lisa Charles, James Kim, Benjamin Lucas*

**Excused:** *Ann Marie Baranowski, Tannia Chavez, Sheila Lewandowski, Norberto Saldana*

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

### **Elected Officials/Representatives**

*Honorable Shekar Krishnan, New York City Council Member  
Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez  
Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng  
Mercedes Jennings, Representing NY State Senator Michael Gianaris  
Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga  
Nathali Rajabian, Representing NY State Assembly Member Juan Ardila  
Farah Salam, Representing Council Member Julie Won  
Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards*

*Megan Yuan, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs (CAU) (PV)*  
*Javiar Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz*

**Department of City Planning**

*Katie Crawford, Winnie Shen*

**NYC EDC**

*Tara Das, Franny Civitano*

**NYC Department of Transportation**

*Jason Banrey, Joseph Patti, Ben Schwed*

**Sunnyside Community Services**

*Shyvonne Noboa*

**Public Comment**

*Lou Venech*  
*Asif Ali, Woodside on the Move*  
*Beatriz Ruiz*  
*Marge Kolb*  
*Nigel Rollings*  
*Jenny Dubnau*  
*Brandan Castro*  
*Fanny Chang*  
*Lizi Rahman*  
*Leo Guttman*  
*Joby Jacob, LaGuardia Community College*  
*Ken Adams, LaGuardia Community College*  
*Lisa Goren, LICC/HPPC*

**Public Comment - City of Yes for Housing Opportunity**

*Leo Guttman, Marge Kolb*

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 YouTube Video)**

**0:02:28 Pledge of Allegiance**

**0:02:48 Anatole Ashraf** welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided housekeeping rules and reminded everyone their vote is their opinion. He requested everyone follow the WAIT Rule, (Why Am I Talking).

**0:04:10 Tiffany Echevarria, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez** provided the following update:

- Discussed legislation the Congresswoman has introduced into the House:
  - HR 8443 this amends the Small Business Act to provide re-entry, entrepreneurship counseling and training services for incarcerated individuals and for other purposes.
  - HR 8601 this amends the Public Health Service Act to provide for and support liver illness visibility, education and research and for other purposes.
- Announced that on June 1, 2024, the Congresswoman hosted a higher education webinar to talk about out FAFSA and how to fill it out and who qualifies.
- Announced and invited everyone to attend on June 20, 2024, at 11:00 am, at the Sunnyside Arch on 46<sup>th</sup> Street a check presentation by the Congresswoman to the Sunnyside Shines BID for \$216,861 to be used for street furniture, garbage cans, trees and bike racks. This is from last year's funding, for this year they are still in the process of choosing to see who will be selected to get the funds.
- Q & A

**0:07:57 Mercedes Jennings, Representing New York State Senator Michael Gianaris** provided the following update:

- The Senator attended and helped celebrate PS84 celebrate their carnival for 120 years existing as a school.
- The Senator supported Small Businesses at the PS 85 Expo on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May.

- The Senator attended an event in Little Thailand to support a lot of the small businesses over there.
- The Senator is trying to make sure things wrap up for session. He has tried very hard to support a lot of the legislations that did pass in the Senate last year.
- Discussed the Privacy Act, and that the Senator is working diligently to try to see if that could pass in the Assembly.
- Their office is located at 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard and are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Q & A

**0:14:48 Victoria Leahy, Representing NY State Assembly Member Steven Raga** provided the following update:

- Announced two pieces of legislation:
  - A1191 which would prevent housing discrimination of base of wage history medical history or health conditions to close loopholes in current fair housing laws of New York State.
  - A496 which would require the Access A Ride program to adopt online program for applications.
- Announced the second Annual Pride Month celebration will be held on June 29, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Elmhurst hospital.
- Their office hosted NHS of Queens at their district office to help constituents apply for Section 8 housing. Individuals can still apply to get on a wait list. The deadline is coming up very soon. Call their District office for assistance.
- Announced they are officially out of rain barrels for their June 15, 2024, giveaway and their wait list are now closed. They will keep the public posted on future rain barrel giveaways.
- Victoria Leahy informed everyone this is her last CB 2 meeting as she is returning to school. She announced Dolma Lama, Director of Community Affairs will oversee constituent services at their district office and will be the CB 2 Liaison.
- Q & A

**0:22:03 Evelyn Li, Representing Congresswoman Grace Meng** provided the following update:

- Provided an update on the US Post Office first federal audit into the mail theft problems in Queens. The Congresswoman is committed to continuing to work to prevent mail theft in Queens.
- Announced a passport event at the Jackson Heights post office on June 9, 2024, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Announced a rain barrel giveaway in Forest Hills on 67<sup>th</sup> Road and the Grand Central Parkway Service Road on June 13, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

- Q & A

**0:24:08 Honorable Shekar Krishnan, New York City Council Member** provided the following update:

- Thanked Anatole Ashraf, Debra Markell Kleinert and all the members.
- Announced his district includes a bit of Woodside, a small piece of CB 2.
- Provided an update on Council District 25.
- Announced he is the first Indian American ever elected during the City Council History.
- Announced he is Chair of the Parks Committee in the Council.
- Discussed the issue of public health.
- Provided an update about Elmhurst Hospital and how together with Speaker Adams and Borough President Donovan Richards to secure over \$27 million dollars for Elmhurst Hospital.
- Announced that in his district, they are working with ACE a nonprofit organization, with the DSNY and that he increased sanitation pick-ups in his district.
- Announced that as Parks Chair that we are setting the example of how we need more investments in our parks and playgrounds.
- Discussed a full renovation of the Citywide Parks Equity Initiative for a full funding of Frank O'Connor playground across the street from Elmhurst Hospital.
- Renovated Northern Playground and Traverse Park.
- Announced he is working with Borough President Donovan Richards who is able to renovate Traverse Park in Jackson Heights.
- Discussed legislative issues such as tenants who have been displaced by fires from their homes.
- Discussed the Back Home Act.
- Discussed the water safety in the city. Children must know how to swim and have access to a pool.
- Introduced a Bill to extend pool and beach safety.
- Discussed different cultural events that he has held so that our communities are represented.
- Reported on a town hall meeting concerning the moped crisis.
- Discussed how we need to rethink design as part of our street to create safe micro mobility access for those who need it.
- Q & A

**0:53:19 Nathalie Rajabian, Representing NY State Assembly Member Juan Ardila** provided the following update:

- Announced the Assembly Member co-authored a bill to combat utility rate hike increases which has passed both the senate and the assembly

- Provided an update on Bill 84895G which gives working class families a fighting chance against cost-of-living increases and surprise rate hikes by mandating gas and electric companies provide 60 days' notice to consumers about any changes to their rates.
- Announced the Assembly Member 's vote helped to pass a number of priority bills such as Retail Worker Safety Act, the Lead Paint Right to Know Act as well as the expansion of the Cooling Assistance offered through the Home Energy Assistance Program.
- The assembly Member is now pushing to pass more cost-saving Revenue Generating Bills in the Assembly before the end of session, such as the New York Heat Act, the Climate Super Fund Act and the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Act.
- Shared a statement that the Assembly Member made against the governor's announcement on Congestion Pricing.
- If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact their office at [ardilaj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:ardilaj@nyassembly.gov) or call: (718) 784-3194.
- Q & A

**0:55:31** Farah Salam, Representing New York City Council Member Julie Won provided the following update:

- Announced construction on a new school at Hunters Point South, which will begin this fall with completion by the 2027 to 2028 school year. This is a 572-seat school which will be located at Second Street and 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue and when taken together with the new elementary school currently underway at 23-10 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Court Square it will bring over 1100 new school seats to Long Island City within the next three years.
- Announced on June 8, 2024, the Council Member will be hosting a press conference for the residents impacted by the Sunnyside Fire.
- Their office hosted an HPD Clinic and will be hosting one on July 31, 2024.
- If anyone needs assistance with any HPD related issues to contact their office at: [district26@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district26@council.nyc.gov).
- Their office has hosted a few clinics this past month and helped constituents with Section 8 Vouchers. If anyone needs assistance with section 8 vouchers to reach out to their office.
- Council Member Won's Office offered assistance to over 70 people applying for IDNYC.
- Reported Council Member Won's office gave away approximately 100 barrels on Saturday at the Sunnyside Green Market.
- This past Tuesday, Council Member Won chaired the Contracts Committee Hearing to oversight and evaluate the progress of reforms made to accelerate nonprofit contract payments. Council Member Won previously introduced several pieces of legislation that will provide more transparency for City Contracting as well as closed the incredibly long weight for contract payment Tom.
- Q & A

**0:58:58 Claire Collins, Representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards** provided the following update:

- Announced the smokestacks at Ravenswood will be taken down and become renewable. Are currently surveying and doing a redevelopment study with our partners at NYSEDA and Rise Light and Power because they want to hear from people who live and work in that area in Ravenswood and Queensbridge about what they want to see. The website is: [www.reimageravenswood.com](http://www.reimageravenswood.com)
- Announced there will be a Pride Month Celebration at Queens Borough Hall on June 13, 2024, 6:00 pm.
- Announced there will be a Father's Day Barbecue at Queens Borough Hall on June 15, 2025, at 1:00 pm.
- Announced there will be a Philippine Independence Day Celebration at Queens Borough Hall on June 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm.
- June is recognized as Gun Violence Awareness Month. Borough President Richards will hold his third annual Queens promotes Peace Conference on June 24, 2024, at 4:00 pm. The location to be confirmed in the coming weeks.
- RSVP to all their events at: [www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp).
- On behalf of Borough President Richards, she wished all a Happy Father's Day.
- Q & A

**1:02:51 Javier Figaroa, Representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz** provided the following update:

- Provided an update on scooters and those that are unregistered and are not using the scooters for the said purpose. DA Katz has confiscated 95 illegal and unregistered scooters in the last month which brings the total illegal and unregistered scooters at 412. DA Katz works with the precincts to do so and once the scooters are taken if it is registered and if it is a legal scooter, the owner can come back and claim it and prove that it was registered.
- Q & A

**1:08:02 Asif Alif, Woodside on the Move** provided the following update:

- Announced they are hosting housing workshops every Tuesday of the month.
- Thanked Queens Legal Services for their assistance with some of the workshops.
- Anyone interested in joining the workshops may reach out to their office at (718) 476-8449.
- They have assisted members of the community with Section 8 applications.
- Announced they held their Annual Woodside Queens Spring Festival.
- Announced they will be hosting their fall festival in October.

- Announced June 15, 2024, they will be hosting their monthly community clean-up which will start at their office on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact their office or reach out on social media.

**1:09:19 Shyvonno Noboa, Sunnyside Community Services** provided the following update:

- Announced on Monday, SCS will be hosting a with the New York City Department of the Aging to have a resource fair and a walk. June is World Elder Abuse Awareness month and announced SCS is proud to have services to provide support to people especially older adults that are victims of abuse. Announced they provide support groups, counseling and services to connect to Legal Aid, housing and other safety resources. This will take place from 9:30 to noon.
- Announced this is their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and have a very special newsletters and encouraged all to take a copy to see the impact they have made on the community.

**1:10:45 General Public Comment**

**1:10:47 Lou Venech** – presented a statement on the Proposed NYC DOT Queens Boulevard Project from Skillman Avenue to Roosevelt Avenue.

**1:13:13 Beatriz Ruiz** – reported on the Quality Auto Mechanic shop tat 43-01 39<sup>th</sup> Street that has taken over parking spaces and also parks their vehicles on the sidewalk on 39<sup>th</sup> Street and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

**1:19:57 Marge Kolb** – Discussed flooding issues after Hurricane Ida on 64<sup>th</sup> Street just south of the BQE. Her community continues to have flooding on 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and there is not enough sewer capacity.

**1:29:53 Nigel Rollings – Spoke about the following**

- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.
- Discussed a trauma he experienced on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Vernon Boulevard with a gang of cyclists heading the wrong way on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They were not obeying regulations and went through the red light. He was cursed at and abused. He requested no more bike gangs.

1:32:49 Jenny Dubnau, Western Queens Community Land Trust – discussed deep concerns about the upcoming One LIC upzoning and requested the Community Board to let the Western Queens CLT together with the LIC Coalition present to an alternative plan that is being worked on primarily by the LIC Coalition Western Queens CLT is supportive of this.

**1:35:29 Joby Jacob, LaGuardia Community College** spoke about a student who was killed, and others injured on Thomson Avenue. Each day, students are subjected to aggressive behavior by drivers. Requesting Thomson Avenue to a safe neighborhood street.



**1:37:22 Kenneth Adams, President, LaGuardia Community College** spoke about the need to improve safety measures on Thomson Avenue. Provided an update on LaGuardia Community College. He invited all to visit the LaGuardia Community Greenway on 29<sup>th</sup> Street between Skillman and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue designed by their environmental science students. He spoke about a student who was killed on Thomson Avenue and supports the vision by the DOT.

**1:41:50 Fanny Chang** spoke about her business which is located in the IBZ district of LIC and spoke about the rezoning and IBZ zones and stated zoning should be inclusive not exclusive.

**1:44:45 Brandon Castro** spoke about a quality-of-life event on June 22, 2024 at 1:00 pm at the Jackson Heights Post Office.

**1:46:41 Leo Guttman** spoke about his disappointment over Governor Hochul's decision to postpone Congestion Pricing.

**1:48:45 Lisa Goren** spoke on behalf of the LIC Coalition and its sister group Hunters Point Community Coalition and is requesting CB 2 to reject the DCP's OneLIC initiative.

**1:52:12 Tara Das, EDC** introduced her colleague Franny Civiato, NYC Ferry

- Provided a power point presentation and update on the Hunters Point South Ferry Landing Replacement – Economic Development Corp. (EDC)
- Provided an update on project history and background.
- A new landing is needed.
- Proposed a new location slightly north but following feedback from the community they went back to the drawing board to take a more expansive look at other alternatives and conduct a lot more engagement.

**1:54:42 Franny Civiato, NYC Ferry** provided an update on the conclusion of an alternatives analysis study.

- Option A, along the basin, is the preferred location and was originally proposed and is the recommended alternative.
- Next steps are their design, iterations are ongoing.
- They are completing their environmental review which they anticipate being done by the end of the year 2024.
- Permitting begins early 2025
- Construction in summer of 2025.
- Landing in service by end of year 2025.
- To be added to their mailing list for project updates, email: [nycerry@edc.nyc](mailto:nycerry@edc.nyc)
- For all project materials, visit: [www.edc.nyc/hpsferrystudy](http://www.edc.nyc/hpsferrystudy)
- Q & A

**2:15:18 Queens Boulevard, Skillman Avenue to Roosevelt Avenue Street Improvement Project**

**2:15:20 Joseph Patti, NYC Department of Transportation** provided the following update:

- Hit 10-year mark for vision zero initiative down to zero citywide.
- Introduced his colleagues from Research, Implementation and Safety Group.

**2:15:45 Ben Schwed, NYC Department of Transportation** provided a power point presentation.

- Thanked the Transportation Committee for the letter of support that was issued.
- Discussed project location, a mile long stretch of Queens Boulevard between Skillman Avenue and Roosevelt Avenue and Skillman Avenue.
- The proposal is to remove a travel lane and eliminate rush hour regulations to encourage safer driving speeds on Queens Blvd.
- Add a curbside bike lane protected with floating parking lane to provide a safety cycling connection.
- Add pedestrian islands at all feasible locations to shorten crossing distances and encourage slower safer turns.
- Q & A

**2:49:40 Katie Crawford, Department of City Planning** provided the following update:

- Introduced her colleague Winnie Shen
- Discussed the four main categories of the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity Proposal
- Q & A

**3:13: 35 Public Comment – City of Yes**

**3:13:37 Marge Kolb** spoke about her concerns regarding infrastructure and is not happy with a lot of the proposals.

**3:14:57 The following individuals spoke in support of the City of Yes Proposal**

*Leo Guttmann, Dan, Adam Zeldin*

**3:18:11 Transition to Board Business**

**3:18:19 Attendance**

- Board Members Present: 38                      Board Members Absent: 12
- Present Virtual: 5      Excused: 4              Quorum: Yes

**3:21:48 Motion** to approve the May 2, 2024, CB 2 Meeting Minutes.

(**Motion** made by Ampara Abel-Bey and seconded by Christine Hunter) to approve the May 2, 2024, CB2 Meeting Minutes

Motion carried: All were in favor of the motion with; None (0) opposed and three (3) abstentions.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/meeting-agendas-minutes.page>

**3:22:39 Christine Hunter, Chair Land Use & Housing Committee** disused the Land Use & Housing recommendation on the City of Yes Proposal and the committee voted to approve the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity Zoning Text Amendments and had one general stipulation and then a couple of specific stipulations.

**(Motion** made by Kenny Greenberg and seconded by Lisa Deller) to approve the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity with stipulation recommended by the Land Use & Housing Committee. Motion carried: All were in favor of the motion; five (5) opposed and no (0) abstentions.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb2/meetings/meeting-agendas-minutes.page>

**3:36:32 Morry Galonoy** announced June 14, 2024 is the third Annual Sunny Pride event from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at 40<sup>th</sup> Street starts under the Number 7 Line to 46<sup>th</sup> Street visit [sunnysideshines.org](http://sunnysideshines.org) for more information.

**3:37:23 Anatole Ashraf** announced the next Board meeting will take place on September 12, 2024 and wished all a happy and safe summer.

**3:27:49 Nick Berkowitz** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

MA Gurrado

CB 2 Staff

Reviewed/Revised and approved for distribution by:

   X Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, CB2

   X Ryan Smith, Secretary, CB 2

   X Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, CB 2

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