



*Donovan Richards*  
*Queens Borough President*

## Community Board No. 2

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*Anatole Ashraf*  
*Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert*  
*District Manager*

July 18, 2024

RE: **CB2 Environment, Parks, and Recreation Committee Letter of Support for Little Manila Block Improvement Project**

To whom it may concern:

The Community Board 2 Environment, Parks, and Recreation Committee unanimously supports the Little Manila Block Improvement Project, presented to the committee on 6/27/24.

The proposal is exciting, detailed, thoughtful, and simultaneously addresses multiple issues in Community Board 2: the need for green space, cultural programming, and support for local businesses.

This is the ideal time to consider this proposal, given the “Heart of District 26” community visioning process for the future of the Roosevelt Avenue corridor.

Our community bears the brunt of living alongside the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway: poor air quality, noise, congestion, and traffic violence on adjacent local streets. This project would give the local community the resources to improve the quality of life and sense of place.

The Little Manila Block Improvement project will provide additional space and resources for civic and cultural programming and participation. The organizers have a demonstrated track record of stewardship and inclusion. They have already held permitted events and are working to participate in the Open Streets program.

Community District 2 ranks 45th out of 59 Community Boards, with only 72% of residents living walking distance to a park. This project will help address this inequity by creating a pocket park in a park-starved area. Community District 2 also ranks 2nd amongst the city’s 59 boards for noise pollution and the lack of tree canopy, which contribute to adverse health impacts, excessive heat, and other negative impacts.

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

There are more than [54,000 Filipino residents](#) in NYC and the Woodside community celebrated the 2022 nearby street co-naming for “Little Manila Avenue” acknowledging the hub for Filipino culture, cuisine, and Tagalog-language services.

Please register the committee’s enthusiastic support for the proposal and eagerness to collaborate with the organizers throughout the process.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

DMK/mag

Cc: Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress  
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress  
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate  
Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senate  
Honorable Jessica Ramos, NY State Senate  
Honorable Juan Ardila, NYS Assembly  
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly  
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, NYS Assembly  
Honorable Steven Raga, NYS Assembly  
Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member  
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member  
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member  
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President  
Marie Therese Dominquez, NYS Department of Transportation  
Nicole Garcia, NYC Department of Transportation  
Jacqueline Langsam, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Laurie Cumbo, Cultural Affairs  
Noah Gamboa, Little Manila Park Inc.  
Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, Community Board 2  
Laura Shepard, Chair, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee