



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

June 12th, 2023

Health and Human Services and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos
Danielle Brecker

Absentees:

Clara Oza, Co-Chair
Nellie Ashraf
John Bahia
Sandra Bigitschke
Phuntsok Tashi
Leticia Vasquez
Atanu Majumdar – Public Member

Public Members

Julie Chou

Guest

Julie Chou

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, Community Board 2

Lauren Springer, Chair Health & Human Services and Education Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Lauren Springer started the meeting with introducing Julie Chou who is a public member of the Health & Human Services and Education Committee. *(presentation attached)*

- Julie Chou will be speaking about the Open Restaurants Program and Public Bathrooms.
- The Public Bathroom Working Group has been looking at a variety of issues pertaining to the Open Restaurants Program.
- The Group saw the Open Restaurants Program as an opportunity to have more public bathrooms for NYC.
- There was a discussion with the Elected Officials regarding the public use of restrooms at a restaurant.
- CB 5 in Manhattan passed the resolution at the full board meeting of the idea of restaurants opening their restrooms to the public.

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

- The open restaurants task force has stated that the city council will be voting on this program and making it permanent in the next two to three weeks.
- The Public Bathroom Group also presented to Brooklyn CB 14 and CB14 is also in full support of this idea.
- Julie Chou presented background information on Open Restaurants.
- There are currently over 13,000 open restaurants in NYC, 2500 are in Queens.
- In Queens, the restaurants are mainly operating on roadway and sidewalk taking up public space.
- In May of 2023 the city council updated the intro with the fees for the open restaurant program
- Roadway cafes may be seasonal and closed between November 30 to March 31
- For the public bathrooms program, the bathrooms will be open year-round.
- The open restaurant fee in Queens for a sidewalk café would be \$900 and for a roadway café \$750.
- The fees have been significantly reduced since pre-pandemic fees of 2018.
- Public Restrooms in Europe have existed since 2000. The City pays the establishment from \$34 to \$112 per month to allow public access to a restroom.
- A sticker is put in the door front to let the public know, a bathroom is available.
- One option under the proposal for open bathroom access was to reduce the open restaurant fee to those restaurants willing to open their restroom to the public.
- Julie Chou suggested a letter to Councilmember Julie Won would be helpful in the Public Bathroom Access under the Open Restaurants Program.

The Health & Human Services and Education Committee held a discussion regarding the Open Restaurants Program and the access of public bathrooms.

Amparo Abel-Bey made a motion for the Health & Human Services and Education Committee to write a letter of support for this proposal of Public Bathroom Access under the Open Restaurant Program. Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos seconded the motion.

A constituent spoke at the meeting and mentioned the outdoor sheds at restaurants attracting rats.

Julie Chou reported on the Automated Public Toilets (APT) and how this would affect Public Restrooms in the Open Restaurants Program. The Public Bathroom Working Group with agreement from CB1, 4 and 5 in Manhattan wrote a letter to DOT Street Furniture Franchise Agreement and Additional APTs stating their concerns about the Automated Public Toilets.

Julie Chou suggested letting DOT know that CB2 would like to know where APTs would be in the community.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber