



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

September 18th, 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
Tom Mituzas
Warren Davis
Nellie Afshar
Oumaya Saab
Leticia Vasquez

Absentees:

Kelly Craig
John Bahia
Sandra Bigitschke
Phuntsok Tashi

Julie Chou – Public Member
Atanu Majumdar – Public Member

Public Members

Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services

Guest

Ana Sanchez
Debbie Farley
Andrew Rubinson, Urban Dove
Tiara M.
Bailey Blackman

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 introduced Ana Sanchez who was present to discuss NYC Council Bill (Intro1099-2023) the healthcare choice of retired NYC employees.

- Ana Sanchez expressed her concern that our council member Julie Won is not addressing an issue that is affecting our aging population in Sunnyside.

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

- Ana stated the following:
 - There are over 250,000 civil servant retirees who were promised throughout their years of service a certain health care.
 - Unfortunately, the Mayor has taken away choice from these retirees and provided them with managed care. This care is very questionable.
 - The retirees want to codify their healthcare and Intro 1099-2023 will co-defy the healthcare in the administrative code and this is the responsibility of the city council.
 - Councilmember Julie Won has not supported or sponsored Intro 1099-2023.
- Ana Sanchez has spoken to councilmember Julie Won and does not understand her reasoning for not supporting this Bill as she was elected by the community.
- 250,000 retirees are fighting the Mayor legislatively and through litigation.
- The retirees are winning their fight in the courts and would like a public hearing on this legislation Intro 1099-2023
- Intro 1099-2023 will give the retirees a choice with a variety of different healthcare plans available.
- Managed Care will not provide the kind of services that retirees need.
- Debbie Farley went on to express that the Mayor does not have the legal jurisdiction to unilaterally remove a plan that has worked for six decades.
- Debbie further stated that by forcing retirees into “a disadvantage plan” will compromise their health, subject them to lengthy deferrals, create delays in their treatment and possibly not even provide coverage as some retirees are geographically in different locations.
- Ana Sanchez is asking why the Councilmember Julie Won is not supporting the Intro 1099-2023 Bill and to put pressure on the civil service labor committee for a public hearing to at least give the public a chance to comment on the Bill. In a democracy everyone must be heard.
- Tom Mituzas shared his views on the Intro 1099-2023 Bill.
- A question was asked if any other council members were supporting the Bill.
 - Ana Sanchez expressed that the City Council Speaker has told the council members not to support this Bill.
 - 17 council members have supported the Bill.

Lauren Springer recommended to have support for Intro 1099-2023 Bill and have the guest speakers come and speak for two minutes at the full board meeting so the entire community and council member can hear it. It was decided that the guest speakers would be placed on the agenda for a presentation at the full board meeting instead of the public comments section.

Lauren Springer introduced Andrew Rubinson, Director of Development for Urban Dove.

- Urban Dove runs two second chance transfer schools.
- One is in Brooklyn and the other is in the Bronx.
- Two additional schools will open in 18 months and one is planned for western Queens.
- Andrew Rubinson will attend next month’s meeting.

- For further information visit www.urbandove.org

Tom Mituzas and Warren Davis discussed the Unhoused and Shelter Task Force Committee.

- Tom Mituzas mentioned that he will officially step down as Co-Chair of the Unhoused and Shelter Task Force Committee due to work conflicts but will stay on as a member.
- Tom Mituzas expressed how this committee needs more help and more members added on.
- They need more help with issues inside the shelters and outside the shelters.
- Warren Davis thanked Chair Lauren Springer and the Health & Human Services and Education Committee for their help and support to the Unhoused and Shelter Task Force Committee.
- Warren Davis spoke about how the influx of migrants might impact the communities and the money that was allocated from the city to organizations to service the shelters.
- Warren Davis expressed how the committee is in support of the migrants, but the money is being allocated to organizations that lack experience in housing and social services.
- Money is also given to security companies that are very disrespectful to the residents within these shelters.
- Warren Davis also had concerns about helping the migrant families integrate into the school system.
- Tom Mituzas mentioned that the Unhoused & Shelter Task Force Committee is in need of more board members and he will mention it at the next Community Board Meeting.

The next Health & Human Services and Education Committee Meeting will be October 16th, 2023.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber