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## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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### **Bylaws Working Group**

The Bylaws Working Group (“BWG”) of Community Board 2, Manhattan (“CB2”) held a virtual meeting via Zoom on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**Committee Members Present:** Susan Kent (Chair), Katy Bordonaro, David Gruber, Michael Levine, Matthew Metzger

**Other CB2 Members Present:** William Benesh, Carter Booth, Chris Dignes, Jeannine Kiely, Donna Raftery

**Agenda:** Continued Discussion of Bylaws Article 1 (Membership).

This meeting continued the examination of Art. 1 (Membership), with a focus on sec. e (board members’ responsibilities when making public statements). A draft of a revised Art. 1, which addressed feedback provided at the January meeting was reviewed. There was consensus that the changes corrected the limitations of sec. e, which as currently written only addresses situations when members appear before government bodies and state a position contrary to that of CB2. As revised, the section creates a uniform standard by addressing all public statements made by a board member, no matter the forum or the position taken. There was some disagreement over the level of responsibility a member has to ensure that they do not incorrectly represent themselves when speaking or making a public statement that relates to the board’s activities.

Discussion then turned to the development of “Communications Policies,” defined in the revised draft as official policies adopted by CB2 regarding the making of public statements, communications with the press, and the use of social media, and are to be incorporated into the bylaws by reference in sec. e. There was debate over the management of CB2’s social media accounts: who should oversee the accounts, a board member appointed to serve as social media manager, or CB2’s office staff. This divide in opinion revealed a lack of

consensus within the BWG over the purpose for maintaining such accounts. A draft of the Communications Policies, prepared by the group's chair in response to earlier discussions of the subject, is to be distributed for discussion at the next BWG meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Kent, Chairperson