Parli Pearl Consulting - Diana Duncan, PRP

Community Board Parliamentary Procedure Training

Scenario:

A motion is made at a Community Board meeting that contains two distinct proposals.

Main Motion on the Floor:

"That the Community Board support the Department of Transportation's proposal to install a new protected bike lane on Flatbush Avenue and to convert two parking lanes into public seating areas from Empire Boulevard to Church Avenue."

Script:

Member C (recognition and motion):

Madam/Mr. Chair, I move that the Community Board support the Department of Transportation's proposal to install a new protected bike lane on Flatbush Avenue and to convert two parking lanes into public seating areas from Empire Boulevard to Church Avenue.

Member D:

Second.

Chair:

It has been moved and seconded that the Community Board support the Department of Transportation's proposal to install a new protected bike lane on Flatbush Avenue and to convert two parking lanes into public seating areas from Empire Boulevard to Church Avenue. Is there any discussion?

Member A (rising and addressing the Chair):

Madam/Mr. Chair, I move to divide the question so that the two proposals may be considered separately.

Chair:

A motion has been made to divide the question. If adopted, we will consider:

1. Supporting the proposal to install a protected bike lane on Flatbush Avenue; and

2. Supporting the conversion of two parking lanes into public seating areas from Empire Boulevard to Church Avenue.

Is there a second?

Member B:

Second.

Chair:

It has been moved and seconded to divide the question.

This motion is not debatable and requires a majority vote.

All those in favor of dividing the question, say "Aye." [Pause for vote]

All those opposed, say "No." [Pause for vote]

The ayes have it, and the question is divided.

Chair:

We will now consider the first part of the motion:

"That the Community Board support the Department of Transportation's proposal to install a protected bike lane on Flatbush Avenue."

Is there any discussion?

Chair:

We will now consider the second part of the motion:

"That the Community Board support converting two parking lanes into public seating areas from

Empire Boulevard to Church Avenue."

Is there any discussion?

Quick Reference: Division of a Question

When to Use: When a motion contains parts that can stand alone and should be considered separately

Debatable?: No

Amendable?: Yes (to clarify the division)

Vote Required: Majority

Effect: Breaks motion into individual questions for separate debate and vote

Reference: Robert's Rules of Order, 12th Edition (RONR 12th ed.) §27:1-4