

**STATEMENT
ON
THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2001**

NYC Council's Queens Hearing

April 21, 2000

Presented by Sean M. Walsh, President

Speaker Vallone, Deputy Leader Spigner, Council Members thank you for the opportunity to address you on the needs of the people of Queens County. The Queens Civic Congress with ninety seven member organizations has prepared this statement after much consultation.

Again the lack of uniformed patrol officers in each of our precincts despite the dramatic increase in the size of the NYPD, thanks to the efforts of the N.Y. City Council, is growing problem. The disappearance of community policing and contact with precinct commanders is only serving to further divide the police from their communities. Low moral, the quest for statistics within the police department must be addressed. The Council must assert its budgetary authority to insist on increased uniform officers assigned to Queens precinct houses and the return to community policing.

Water rates are a regressive tax. On May 1 we will undergo another charade of a public hearing to see a 1% rate increase which translates into a 200% increase since the beginning of metering. Remove capital expenses from the water rate. No other city capital program depends on a regressive use tax. Residents, Coops, Businessmen are suffering under this onerous tax.

Parks look great after a capital improvement but Parks has no budget to support the necessary maintenance. Increase the Parks budget to 1% of the total city expense budget.

Education we can not afford to loss the professional staff of teachers and principals to surrounding suburban districts because we don't pay a going wage rate. Increase the city budget to meet a realistic wage package. Queens is still denied its fair share of the capital budget in terms of new seats to be built. The Council should exercise budgetary oversight in the allocation of Capital dollars.

Illegal conversions and self certification are two very serious problems in Queens County. We need a specific budget to fund a task force to follow a violation from beginning to a successful end which means compliance. Self certification must end for public safety hire sufficient examiners and inspectors to do what government is suppose to do.

Library hours need to be extended, and an increase in funding resources to purchase reading materials.

We ask that the Council commit funding for a one seat ride to both our airports and tie

any allocation of city funding to the MTA to a guarantee of the completion of these links within three years.

We would ask that the Council examine every city agency and ask does Queens receive a share of that agency budget in proportion to Queens' population. Our review of all the major city agencies reveals that Queens does not receive a fair allocation of the budget.