

Queens Cívic Congress

P.O. Box 238, Flushing, NY 11363 (718) 343-6779 fax: (718) 225-2818 www.queensciviccongress.org queensciviccongr@aol.com

President: Corey Bearak **Executive Vice President: Patricia Dolan**

Secretary: Seymour Schwartz **Treasurer: James Trent**

Vice Presidents:

Founders:

Tyler Cassell Richard Hellenbrecht Paul Kerzner David Kulick Barbara Larkin Audrey Lucas Kathy Masi Nagassar Ramgarib Harbachan Singh Edwin Westley Dorothy Woo President *Emeritus* Sean Walsh Albert Greenblatt Robert Harris

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009

Contact: Jim Trent (718) 343-8830

Queens Civic Congress makes call for fare alternatives to tolls, cuts and hike

Statement by Kathy Masi, Vice President, Queens Civic Congress co-Chair, Transportation Committee (Glendale Civic)

Queens Civic Congress a coalition of over 110 civic, community, cooperative, tenant and other organizations in the borough of Queens, calls on the public to contact their state legislators to oppose the Ravitch toll-tax-reliant scheme that that couples hikes fares and unfair, inequitable and inefficient tolls on our free East River and Harlem River bridges. The alternatives are not the gargantuan fare hikes and services cuts Ravitch allies threaten every day. Queens Civic Congress early in this dialogue advanced preferable revenue measures and we participate in a coalition that includes several more. We urge Albany to shift gears and get behind these alternatives, which unlike the unfair, inequitable, inefficient toll-tax reliant Ravitch scheme, avoids any reliance on a fare hike.

Queens Civic Congress <u>testified</u> and <u>issued</u> statements that proposed fair and sound revenue alternatives. The coalition we joined to oppose congestion tax and the tolls developed additional proposals (and included our revenue reforms). Our message to Albany remains clear: Seize this opportunity to adopt sound alternatives to fare hikes and unfair, inequitable and inefficient tolls on our free East River and Harlem River Bridges, including our own Queensborough Bridge. As we <u>testified</u> to the MTA earlier this year, Queens Civic Congress questions any need for hikes or service cuts when creditable resources exist to support MTA operations and projects.

-30-

Queens Civic Congress Members

Association of Old Forest Hills ♦ Auburndale Improvement Association ♦ Bayside Civic Database ♦ Bayside Clear-Spring Council ♦ Bayside Hills Civic Association ♦ Bayswater Civic Association • Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Inc. • Bellaire-BellVill Civic Association • Belle Harbor Property Owners Association • Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association ♦ Bellerose Hillside Civic Association ♦ Bell Park Manor Terrace Community Council ♦ Bowne Park Civic Association ♦ Briarwood Community Association ♦ Cambria Heights Civic Association • Civic Association of Utopia Estates • C.O.M.E.T. (Communities of Maspeth-Elmhurst Together) • Concerned Citizens of Laurelton • Cornucopia Society • Creedmoor Civic Association • Deerfield Area Association • Doug-Bay Manor Civic Association • Douglast Manor Association • Douglaston Civic Association • Dutch Kills Civic Assn. of Long Island City • East Flushing Civic Association • Federated Block Associations of Laurelton • Federation of Civic Associations of Southeast Queens • Floral Park Community Council • Flushing Heights Civic Association ♦ Flushing on the Hill Taxpayers Association ♦ Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce ♦ Forest Hills Crescents Association ♦ Forest Hills-Van Court Association ♦ Fresh Meadows Homeowners Association • Georgetown Mews • Glendale Civic Association of Queens • Glen Oaks Village Owners, Inc. • Greater Astoria Historical Society • Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association ♦ Harding Heights Civic Association ♦ Hillcrest Estates Civic Association ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #1 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #2 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #3 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #4 ♦ Hollis 11423 Block Association ♦ Hollis Civic Association ♦ Holliswood Civic Association ♦ Hollis Park Gardens Civic Association ♦ Holly Civic Association ◆ Hyde Park Gardens Cooperative ◆ Jackson Heights Beautification Group ◆ Jamaica Estates Association ◆ Jamaica Hill Community Association ◆ Juniper Park Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Association ♦ Kissena Park Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Bay Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Pines ♦ Long Island City Alliance ♦ Malba Civic Association ♦ Meadowlark Gardens Owners ♦ Middle Village Property Owners Association ♦ Mitchell Linden Civic Association ♦ Neponsit Property Owners Association ◆ Newtown Civic Association ◆ North Bellerose Civic Association ◆ North Flushing Civic Association ◆ North Hills Estates Civic Association ◆ Northwest Clearview Homeowners Association • Norwood Civic Association • Oakland Terrace/ Gardens Community Council • Off Broadway Homeowners Association • Our Neighborhood Improvement Association • Parkway Village Historical Society • Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association • Queens Colony Civic Association • Queens Community Civic Corp. Queens Village Civic Association • Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Association • Richmond Hill Historical Society • Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association • Rockaway Park Homeowners/ Residents ♦ Rocky Hill Civic Association ♦ Rosedale Civic Association ♦ Royal Ranch Association. ♦ Southeast Queens Concerned Neighbors ♦ South Ozone Park West Civic Association • Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association • Station Road Civic Assoc. of Auburndale • Sunnyside Gardens/Harrison Place Homeowners • Surrey Estates Civic Association ♦ Union Turnpike Merchants Association ♦ United Forties Civic Association ♦ United Neighbors Civic Association ♦ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ◆ Wayanda Civic Association ◆ West Cunningham Park Civic Association ◆ Westmoreland Association ◆ Woodside Community Council