



Queens Civic Congress

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QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS OPPOSES WATER & SEWER TAX GOUGE

Testimony to the NYC Council Committees on Environmental Protection and Finance
Tuesday, April 28, 2009
by Corey Bearak, President, Queens Civic Congress

Thank you chairmen Gennaro and Weprin for holding this hearing and for this opportunity for Queens Civic Congress to testify about another unnecessary Water and Sewer tax gouge, 14% on top of the 14.5% we already endure this year. My name is Corey Bearak. I serve as President of this unique coalition that represents over 110 civic, cooperative, condo, tenant and other community associations throughout the borough of Queens. Our membership represents almost every community in the borough.

Last year I testified to the NYC Water Board that New Yorkers already pay 500% more than they paid when the City introduced water metering; last year's 14.5% gouge and proposed 14% hike just exacerbate this unconscionable abdication of sound policymaking that led us to today's hearing. City Hall – the mayor – must demand that the water board kill the proposed hike. As I stated yesterday to the Water Board, “City Hall must take the necessary initiatives to ensure the Water Board operates consistent with its mandate to provide safe water and clean disposal, and achieve this – as can be done – without gouging New Yorkers.”

The past and current failure of City Halls past and present led the Queens Civic Congress to take the policy initiative. With Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Queens Civic Congress secured the support of the Queens Borough Board last week (Monday, April 20, 2009) we continue outreach across the city to hold the line on skyrocketing water and sewers rates.

In these times, it becomes imperative to avoid these economy killing taxes. City Hall must change its current mindset that continues us on a path to pay more; we need that to change. I've attached the 16-point [Resolution to Protect NYC Watersheds and Hold Down NYC Water Rates](#). (The link to the [presentation](#) follows this testimony). Attached *Appendix A* is a rate chart.

The resolution includes eliminating the rental payment, setting rates after city budget approval, federal aid for federal mandates, using city capital budget for projects, no use of water funds for unrelated expenses, more watershed land investment, no inappropriate gas drilling in the watershed and the use of modern “Membrane Filtration” instead of the antiquated system employed at the Van Cortland project. Thank you for your consideration and City Hall hear us.

[Editors's note: The [presentation](http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-01-13_CWCWC_QCC_2009_Water_Rates_campaign.pdf) may be viewed at
http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-01-13_CWCWC_QCC_2009_Water_Rates_campaign.pdf.

Appendix A

Water and Sewer Rate Increases

| Date/ FY | Meter change % | Sewer Charge % | Total Rate** Increase | | Date/ FY | Meter change % | Sewer Charge % | Total Rate** Increase |
|------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1980 | | 25% | | | 1995 | 0% | 159% | 0% |
| 1981 | | 33% | | | 1996 | 5% | 159% | 5% |
| 1982 | | 33% | | | 1997 | 6.5% | 159% | 7% |
| 1983 | | 50% | | | 1998 | 6.5% | 159% | 7% |
| 1984 | | 50% | | | 1999 | 4% | 159% | 4% |
| 1985 | | 60% | | | 2000 | 4% | 159% | 4% |
| 1986 | | 60% | | | 2001 | 1% | 159% | 1% |
| 1987* | 9.9% | 60% | 9.9 | | 2002 | 4% | 159% | 4% |
| 1988 | 12% | 70% | 19% | | 2003 | 6.5% | 159% | 6.5% |
| 1989 | 0% | 75% | 14% | | 2004 | 5.5% | 159% | 5.5% |
| 1990, 1-6 | 7.8% | 88% | 24.3 | | 2005 | 5.5% | 159% | 5.5% |
| 1990, 7-12 | 9.00% | 112% | | | 2006 | 3% | 159% | 3.00% |
| 1991 | 0% | 112% | 22.9 | | 2007 | 9.4% | 159% | 9.4% |
| 1992 | 6.4% | 136% | 18% | | 2008 | 11.5% | 159% | 11.5% |
| 1993 | 0% | 159% | 10% | | 2009 | 14.50% | 159.00% | 14.50% |
| 1994 | 0% | 159% | 0% | | 2010** | 14.00% | 159.00% | 14.50% |

*metering began that fiscal year, July 1, 1987 **Proposed Hike

Find Queens Civic Congress [Members](http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php) on the web at: <http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>.

Queens Civic Congress Members

Association of Old Forest Hills ♦ Auburndale Improvement Association ♦ Bayside Civic Database ♦ Bayside Clear-Spring Council ♦ Bay Side Hills Civic Association ♦ Bayswater Civic Association ♦ Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Inc. ♦ Bay Terrace Cooperative Section 1 ♦ Bellaire-Bellwill 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 ♦ Douglas Manor Association ♦ Douglaston Civic Association ♦ Dutch Kills Civic Association of Long Island City ♦ East Elmhurst Corona Civic Association ♦ 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 Hills Civic Association ♦ Holliswood Civic Association ♦ Hollis Park Gardens 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 ♦ Kew Gardens Improvement 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 ♦ Newtown Historical Society ♦ North Bellerose Civic Association ♦ North Flushing Civic Association ♦ North Hills Estates Civic Association ♦ Northwest Clearview Homeowners Association ♦ Norwood Neighborhood Association ♦ Oakland Terrace/ Gardens Community Council ♦ Off Broadway Homeowners Association ♦ Our Neighborhood Improvement Association ♦ Our Neighbors Civic Association of Ozone Park, Inc. ♦ 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 Association Civic ♦ 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 Mutual Veterans Housing, Inc. ♦ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ♦ Wayanda Civic Association ♦ West Cunningham Park Civic Association ♦ Westmoreland Association ♦ Woodside Community Council