

## QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS POSITION PAPER RE WATER FILTRATION PLANT

June 22, 1999

The Queens Civic Congress joins with their colleagues in Bronx County to oppose the building of a water filtration plant in Van Cortland Park. First, the damage and alienation of city park land for such a purpose is not appropriate and we join those who have already spoken to this point.

We, however, oppose the water filtration plant on the additional grounds that *to build it you invite, even encourage pollution*. At the present time there is no need to filter the Croton watershed system. Yet, the city's projections seem to suggest that the water quality will deteriorate in the future. The question you must ask yourselves is why is the watershed going to deteriorate? The answer is that the city will not expend sums of money to protect the watershed from polluted run off upstate. The cost to ameliorate pollution is always cheaper to accomplish at the source than at the tap. What advantage is it to the communities upstate to pollute their own natural environment?

The costs in building this in what will inevitably be the first of many filtration plants an enormous burden on the citizens of this city who will see their water bills escalate beyond their reach. The present water tax which is the only city tax which includes capital costs is a regressive tax. If you approve this water filtration plant, there will be serious economic consequences on every rental, coop unit, homeowner, and small business man.

There are real and less expensive alternatives to this filtration plant and you need to address those issues now. There are more than enough construction projects on our water system to keep our construction workers busy for the next twenty years.

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