

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS FORUM: REGULATING COMMUNITY FACILITIES
LAND USE CHAIR KATZ; ZONING CHAIR AVELLA SPEAK
Monday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.**

The Queens Civic Congress [QCC] holds a forum featuring two key City lawmakers to promote legislation to address and solve the issues relating to inappropriate Community Facilities, Monday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., announced President Sean M. Walsh. City Council Land Use Committee Chair Melinda Katz and City Council Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee Chair Anthony Avella will address the meeting, at the Union Plaza Nursing Home, 33-23 Union Street in Flushing, a few blocks north of Northern Boulevard, advised Executive Vice President for Land Use and Development Patricia Dolan who coordinated the program.

“The Queens Civic Congress hopes to use our June 17 forum to galvanize City Hall and our communities’ representatives to deal with this daunting problem,” said President Walsh. “We arranged this meeting with two key City legislators to develop a specific legislative agenda to solve the problem of so-called community facilities.

“The Congress organized two panel discussions over the last two years to help focus on the compelling need to address impacts of facilities in neighborhoods that do not necessarily serve the host community,” added Executive Vice President of Public Affairs Corey B. Bearak who also noted that the Queens Civic Congress Platform makes several proposal to regulate the siting of these facilities.

President Walsh reports the meeting will also include the adoption of the Queens Civic Congress 2002-2003 Platform, which may be viewed on the internet at www.queensciviccongress.org. This most recent platform revised under the leadership of Vice President Richard Hellenbrecht offers an extensive roadmap for solutions to many issues confronting our government today. Topics include Land Use and Zoning, Illegal Conversions and Building Issues, Community Facilities, Education, Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, Transportation - Aviation Issues, Transportation - JFK and LaGuardia Access, Transportation o Mass Transit/Vehicular, Transportation, Economic Development, Environment, Health and Hospitals and City Governance and City Budget/Fiscal Policy. The proposed new Education platform on school governance- first release and posted on the Queens Civic Congress Online Website in March bears a striking resemblance to the changes that appear set to be imposed on the City’s Public School system.

“Our 100 Queens civic member organizations maintain a strong interest in strengthening zoning and preserving the unique character of our various neighborhoods” said Executive Vice President Patricia Dolan who is responsible for Land Use, Community Review and related matters for the Congress.

“The Queens Civic Congress membership represents almost every community in the borough” noted Executive Vice President Corey Bearak, who oversees legislative and public affairs and related matters for the Congress. “The Queens Civic Congress Online, its website, www.queensciviccongress.org, provides information on upcoming events, the civic congress platform and resource links to government, non-profit and community organizations.”