

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS OFFICERS INSTALLED;
MTA & COUNCIL ADOPT QCC PLATFORM PLANKS ON BUSES AND TAXIS
Public Safety Chair Vallone installed newly elected officers 10/7 in Flushing**

The newly elected officers of the borough-wide Queens Civic Congress were installed, Monday, October 7, 2002 at the Union Plaza Nursing Home in Flushing and later that same week state and city officials embraced two Queens Civic Congress Platform positions. Re-elected QCC President Sean M. Walsh led the list of the new and re-elected officers of the borough-wide coalition of 100 civic, community, cooperative and tenant organization, installed by City Council Public Safety Committee Chair Peter F. Vallone, Jr. following an election held earlier that evening. In addition to Mr. Walsh (Douglaston Civic Association), the Queens Civic Congress 2002-2003 slate of officers included re-elect included Executive Vice Presidents Corey Bearak (North Bellerose) and Patricia Dolan (Kew Gardens Hills); Treasurer James Trent (Creedmoor); Secretary: Seymour Schwartz (Briarwood); and Vice Presidents Tina Chan (Kew Forest), Kenneth Cohen (Flushing-Suburban), Richard Hellenbrecht (Bellerose-Commonwealth), David Kulick (Flushing on the Hill), Nagassar Ramgarib (Queens Village), and Edwin Westley (Jackson Heights). Newly elected as Vice Presidents were Thomas Paino (Hunters Point Community Coalition), Audrey Lucas (Southeast Queens Concerned Neighbors), and Paul Kerzner (Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic).

Mr. Walsh also noted recent progress on two Queens Civic Congress platform proposals. This week, legislation introduced into the Council would enact into law, the Queens Civic Congress Platform position, to "Establish City and state programs to require the purchase and use of "Clean Air".... taxis...." (Queens Civic Congress 2002-03 Platform Environment Plank #12). The MTA's re-organization plan for a separate bus authority mirrors the Queens Civic Congress Platform position to "Establish a citywide Surface Transit Authority...." (Queens Civic Congress 2002-03 Platform Transportation: Mass Transit Plank #2).

Mr. Walsh noted the clean fuels proposal for taxis was previously advocated by former Borough President Fernando Ferrer of the Bronx at several environmental conferences and testimony to the Council in 2000 and 2001 and the Environmental Protection Administration in 2000. The entire Queens Civic Congress Platform may be viewed on the internet at:

<http://www.queensciviccongress.org/Platform/02platform.htm>

During the summer months, the Congress kept busy opposing Charter Revision proposals advanced by City Hall and making its own recommendations to bring government closer to the people and ensure fiscal accountability and fairness, objecting to NYC2012's plans for the Olympics in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, and holding forums - co-sponsored with the Citizens Union-- for the legislative primary elections. This fall, the Queens Civic Congress called on the Governor to commit - before the November election - to hold the line on bus and subway fares, held workshops on zoning issues, testified on illegal housing and zoning issues at the City Council, supported the restoration of G train service and called for renewed efforts to develop a rail freight tunnel.

Councilman Vallone's address followed meetings held last spring featuring his Queens City Council colleagues Finance Chair David Weprin, Land Use Chair Melinda Katz, Zoning Chair Tony Avella and Transportation Chair John Liu. Weprin, Avella and Liu all participated in the congress as civic leaders before their election and Liu (Vice President; Transportation Chair) and Avella (Expense Budget) held leadership positions.

The next Queens Civic Congress meeting, its Annual Legislative Reception, an invitation only event, takes place Sunday afternoon, November 17 at the Douglaston Club.