



Queens Civic Congress

P.O. Box 238, Flushing, NY 11363 (718) 225-2807 fax: (718) 225-2818
www.queensciviccongress.org queensciviccongr@aol.com

President
Sean M. Walsh

Executive Vice Presidents
Corey Bearak Patricia Dolan

Secretary
Seymour Schwartz

Treasurer
James Trent

Founders
Robert Harris
Albert Greenblatt

Vice Presidents
Edwin Westley
David Kulick

Richard Hellenbrecht
Audrey Lucas

Paul Kerzner
Tyler Cassell

Nagassar Ramgarib
Dorothy Woo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007

Contact:
Corey Bearak (718) 343-6779

QUEENS CIVICS OPPOSE CITY'S ZONING SCHEME FOR JAMAICA

The Queens Civic Congress praised as courageous and farsighted the decision of Queens Community Board 12 to oppose the City Planning Department's proposed Jamaica Zoning scheme for 368 blocks of Jamaica Center and nearby residential neighborhoods, last week (Wednesday, April 11, 2007), said QCC President Sean M. Walsh who noted the scheme also seeks to Up-zone Hillside Avenue and other major corridors such as Merrick Boulevard.

“As they voted, board members voiced their belief that the City plan would encourage more overdevelopment in Jamaica’s middle class, homeowner neighborhoods, which board members contended are underserved by schools, sewers and water mains, public transit and infrastructure,” stated QCC Executive Vice President for Planning Patricia Dolan who attended the vote and worked closely with the Ad Hoc Committee established by Community Board 12 to review the plan. “At the same time they were troubled by City Planning’s failure to disclose details of a zoning text amendment.” City Planning staffers told the Ad hoc Committee about affordable housing, removing parking waivers, extending the special district, and the introduction of a new transition zone, but they told committee members that other things were being considered and would not give details. QCC Vice President Paul Kerzner also assisted.

Hollis Park Gardens Association President Eugenia Rudmann, co-chair of Board 12’s “Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Scoping Document for the Downtown Jamaica Redevelopment Plan,” for more than a year, convinced a CB12 majority that voting down the zoning scheme gives residents a better opportunity to work with officials on a better plan.

The Queens Civic Congress, a coalition of more than 110 civic, community and neighborhood based organizations representing tenants, co-operators and homeowners living in every part of Queens, testified against the city scheme in separate presentations by Ms. Dolan to Community Boards 8 and 12. Board 8 previously rejected the scheme for Hillside Avenue which it shares with Board 12. The City scheme would increase congestion along well traveled roadways, overtax an already overburdened infrastructure and impose unacceptable residential density on the Hillside Avenue corridor.

The Queens Civic Congress expresses concern the high rise scheme represents the opening salvo in a campaign by the Department of City Planning to introduce high density, high rise residential development to other major corridors throughout Queens. In its testimony, the QCC raised serious doubts about the conclusions regarding environmental impacts in the Draft EIS. Transportation, sewer capacity, water supply, utilities and other infrastructure would be seriously overburdened by adoption of this plan. The effects on the E and F lines would be felt as far away as Jackson Heights.

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 ♦ Cherry Robinson Homeowners ♦ C.O.M.E.T. (Communities of Maspeth-Elmhurst Together) ♦ Concerned Citizens of Laurelton ♦ Cornucopia Society ♦ Creedmoor Civic Association ♦ Doug-Bay Manor Civic Association ♦ Douglas 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 Hills Civic Association ♦ Holliswood Civic Association ♦ Hollis Park Gardens Civic Association ♦ Holly Civic Association ♦ Hunters Point Community Coalition ♦ Hyde Park Gardens Cooperative ♦ Jackson Heights Beautification Group ♦ Jamaica Estates Association ♦ Jamaica Hill Community Association ♦ Juniper Park Civic Association ♦ Kew Forest Neighborhood Association ♦ Kew Gardens Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Association ♦ Kissena Park Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Bay Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Pines ♦ Malba Civic Association ♦ Meadowlark Gardens Owners ♦ Middle Village Maspeth Civic Association ♦ 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 Action Committee ♦ 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 ♦ Utopia Estates Civic Association ♦ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ♦ Wayanda Civic Association ♦ West Cunningham Park Civic Association ♦ Westmoreland Association ♦ Woodside Community Council