

Farewell Address
from
Sean Walsh
On the Eve of
the Conclusion of a Decade of Service
as
Queens Civic Congress President

October 10, 2007

Dear Fellow Civic Leader:

I would like to share with you some thoughts as I step aside as President of the QCC. I have been fortunate since 1970 to have served as a leader of two civic associations – the Jackson Heights Civic Association and the Douglaston Civic Association – and as an officer of two community boards – CB 3 and CB 11 as well as positions in other community associations. The past ten years as President has been the most rewarding.

Queens is a community of neighborhoods, and civics are the voice of those neighborhoods. Civic associations and community boards are vital instruments of our democracy. Neighborhoods are the building blocks of American society and the bedrock of our democracy. You and your civic play an extremely important role in that process. Your role is more than getting a stop sign or a playground; it is about securing a good education for the next generation, maintaining an urban environment where people enjoy living, and absorbing and welcoming new immigrants.

If you study the history of our city you will see that neighborhoods have a cyclical life. We are part of that cycle. It is our responsibility as citizens, as civic leaders, to leave what has been given to us better than we received it. A measure of success for any civic leader is not the accomplishments of their tenure but who they have inspired to take up this cause.

For thirty years it has been my civic dream to unite neighborhoods under a common banner in order to achieve that which no single civic voice could on their own. I believe we have achieved that dream. Our CIVIC 2030 platform is a statement of the common needs and desires of a diverse borough. You, the civic community, may now speak for the future through the strength of one voice. Thank you and best wishes.

Some people see things as they are and say why; I dream things that never were, and say why not.

/s/ Sean M. Walsh