

\$85K makes you middle class in Queens. Now really.

A new [study](#) released today by the Center for Urban Future (CUF) re-emphasizes concerns and issues raised by Queens Civic Congress and others – the current policies at City Hall fail too many New Yorkers. And we talk not of those at the bottom spectrum whose special needs government must address. Yes, the report, “City of Aspiration,” concisely lays out how City Hall for at least a decade – and we know that to be much longer on property taxes and water rates, schools and transit – fails its middle class. Surprise, Surprise, beset by long commutes, underperforming schools, unfair property taxes and escalating water rates, not to mention rampant out of scale overdevelopment of our low density naves.

When you read comments as,

“Finally, much recent residential development in the middle class enclaves that remain often seems disturbingly out of scale with existing neighborhoods. This constitutes a major source of consternation for community residents, many of whom specifically chose their locations for the amenities of one- and two-family homes, quiet streets and ample parking.”

you look forward to solutions.

And then you read how CUF would allow overdevelopment to continue once the infrastructure is in place (see p. 48 of the PDF) and you see a total absence to attention to some of the costs that hit us even when we avoid “overzealous enforcement” of parking and sanitation fines; this includes water rates and property taxes.

One suspects no one connected with drafting the report took the time to review [CIVIC2030](#). Certainly the absence of solutions for [water rate](#) gouging and real property tax [reform](#) indicate need for a “do-over.” Our neighborhoods make Queens special and includes the lower density character that often attract new families with sometimes different traditions that long-time residents. Certainly, no one reached out to this commentator.

-Corey Bearak, President, Queens Civic Congress

See also comments by Corey in this Daily News [article](#), “Blue Collar Borough Shifts Gear.”