

Statement to City Council – City Hall
North Flushing Rezoning & R1-2A Text Amendment

Good morning Councilman Avella, and other council members. My name is Tyler Cassell. As the president of the North Flushing Civic Association, and a member of Community Board 7, and a homeowner in the area, I must say that this is a joyous day. We have been seeking rezoning for over 10-years now, and that day is now close at hand.

Over the years we have fought to preserve the low-density residential qualities of our community. Sometimes we won, but very often we lost. We continued to lose many battles due to the out-of-date zoning that has been in place since 1961. Over the last 4 years we watched impatiently as other communities around us were rezoned. Now our turn is here at last and we are pleased to be here today to ask your support.

The North Flushing Rezoning proposal covers 257 blocks contained in 2 Community Boards – Community Board 7, and Community Board 11. This was an opportunity for both Community Boards to work together, and we did so in true community spirit. At a joint public hearing, we drew over 200 members and homeowners to discuss the zoning proposal. Both Community Boards have voted overwhelming in favor of the proposal, and overwhelmingly in favor of the new R1-2A text. The new R1-2A text was specifically created to help preserve the lowest density parts of our communities. The city has very few of these zones left, so it is extremely important to save them.

I want to thank Borough President, Helen Marshall, for her leadership in the Borough. I want to personally thank Borough Director of City Planning, John Young, Brendan Pillar, and the Queens staff that have worked so hard and diligently on this and other rezonings in Queens. Without their knowledge, dedication, and spirit of cooperation, we would not be here today. It is very rare that a City has such dedicated public servants on one team, in one City agency, at the same time. We salute them for a job superbly done.

I also want to thank Councilman Avella for his leadership, tireless dedication, and support, and also the Land Use Committee for their desire to protect the residential neighborhoods from destructive overbuilding.

This rezoning plan is now before you at Council. We urge you to support the rezoning plan and the R1-2A text as presented. We look forward to raising our glasses in a toast when the North Flushing Rezoning and text has been approved by Council.

Thank you very much.

Tyler Cassell
President of the North Flushing Civic Association
Member of Community Board 7
Vice-President Queens Civic Congress
Member Queens Zoning Task Force
109 Police Precinct Community Council

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