



Queens Civic Congress

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QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS: DON'T UNDO SUNNYSIDE GARDENS
Testimony submitted to the City Council Zoning Subcommittee, chaired by Council
Member Tony Avella, June 2, 2009
Prepared by Corey Bearak, President

Queens Civic Congress [QCC], the Borough-wide coalition of more than 110 civic, community, condo, co-operative, homeowner and tenant organizations, urges support for Sunnyside Gardens. Now, what one city agency – Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) – helped protect, another – the Department of City Planning/ City Planning Commission – seeks to undo by permitting as-of-right changes not otherwise permitted currently in the Sunnyside Gardens Historic District.

This provision would effectively gut Planned Community (PC) zoning, which aims to protect the scale and historic open spaces of neighborhoods such as Sunnyside Gardens. Queens Civic Congress supported the efforts of Sunnyside Gardens residents to secure their historic district designation, in part because the Department of Buildings failed to adequately enforce PC zoning's strong protections. The LPC seemed the perfect agency to enforce this PC zoning.

This proposed Department of City Planning zoning revision seeks to emasculate PC zoning. The LPC still needs to commence its efforts to address district-specific regulations that might continue these protections that City Planning mindlessly seeks to remove. This includes permitting - as-of-right - driveways, curb cuts, paving front yards, fences and barriers in common gardens or across common walkways, building enlargements or additions, garages or carports, sheds, porches, decks and tree removal – all disallowed under PC Zoning (See http://www.sunnysidegardens.us/pdf/DCPlan_FactSheet.pdf and http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/sunnyside_gardens/index.shtml).

Since this City Planning action smacks of the reverse, Queens Civic Congress recommends the City Council reject this thoughtless proposal. Thank you

-30-

[Note: Queens Civic Congress *Membership* follows on the next page]

Find Queens Civic Congress [Members](http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php) on the web at: <http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>.

Queens Civic Congress Members

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