



# Queens Civic Congress

P.O. Box 238, Flushing, NY 11363 (718) 343-6779 fax: (718) 225-3366  
www.queensciviccongress.org queensciviccongr@aol.com

**President:**  
Corey Bearak

**Executive Vice President:**  
Patricia Dolan

**Secretary:**  
Seymour Schwartz

**Treasurer:**  
James Trent

**Vice Presidents:**

Tyler Cassell Richard Hellenbrecht Paul Kerzner David Kulick  
Barbara Larkin Audrey Lucas Kathy Masi Nagassar Ramgarib  
Harbachan Singh Edwin Westley Dorothy Woo

**Founders:**

President *Emeritus* Sean Walsh  
Albert Greenblatt  
Robert Harris

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
MONDAY, March 31, 2008

Contact:  
Corey Bearak  
(718) 343-6779

## **QUEENS CIVICS CONGRESS SPECIAL ZONING & LAND USE FORUM: UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Includes photos)**

Queens Civic Congress, the borough-wide coalition of civic and condo, cooperative, tenant and other community organizations held a Special Forum on Zoning & Land Use: Unfinished Business, Monday, March 31, 2008, at Queens Community House/ Kew Gardens Community Center, advised Queens Civic Congress President Corey Bearak. Many civics attended the forum with about 100 people filling the room.

The speakers included: City Council Zoning & Franchises Committee Chair **Tony Avella**; Department of City Planning Queens Director **John Young**; **Sandra Atwell** (President, Hollis 11423 Block Association); **Paul DiBenedetto** (President, Bayside Civic Database); **Henry Euler** (Zoning and Housing Chair, Auburndale Improvement Association), and Independent Urban Planner **Paul Graziano** (President, Historic Districts Council). QCC President Emeritus & Founder **Sean M. Walsh**, Esq., served as Moderator.

According to Executive Vice President Patricia Dolan, QCC's Land Use and Planning chair: "Panelists covered these important topics: Neighborhoods waiting for re-zoning – New zones to protect the R1 zone ("RIA") – one-family row houses and single-family occupancy houses on narrow lots – Neighborhoods that don't get the zoning plan they need – Getting ready for the City Planning Commission – More."

Queens Director of City Planning John Young became the obvious target for the long delay that many neighborhoods are experiencing in their quest to get rezoned. John explained that the recent outburst of those objecting to down zoning has slowed the process significantly. It remains important that those seeking to preserve their neighborhoods stay strong in opposing those resisting zoning improvements for the sake of immediate financial gain.

Tony Avella strongly urged City Planning to get back on track because many neighborhoods are years beyond the dates promised by City Planning for their rezoning. He understood that City Planning needs more staff but his recent efforts to acquire additional funds for staffing were not successful.

Pat Dolan, QCC Executive Vice President, suggested that more zoning classifications are needed, especially one related to single-family row houses.

After each panelist spoke the floor was opened for questions from the various civic groups resulting in a barrage of lively discussions. Although many civics had an opportunity to speak there were many who could not because of time constraints.

QCC President Corey Bearak noted that, in some areas that have been rezoned, there is still some out-of-character construction in progress with DOB permits that should not have been approved under the new zoning regulations. All of the panelists agreed that the citizens and civics must be on alert to protest the issuance of permits issued by the DOB in error. Enforcement can only be accomplished by caring citizens.

-30-

[Pictures of the program follow. Watch this link for more photos to be added]



Urban Planner and Historic Districts Council President Paul Graziano speaks. Other panel members include Sandra Atwell (President, Hollis 11423 Block Association), QCC President Emeritus & Founder Sean M. Walsh, Esq., who moderated, Department of City Planning Queens Director John Young; Paul DiBenedetto (President, Bayside Civic Database) and Henry Euler (Zoning and Housing Chair, Auburndale Improvement Association), and Independent Urban Planner Paul Graziano (President, Historic Districts Council). Photo courtesy North Bellerose Civic Association.



City Council Member Tony Avella Speaks. Photo courtesy North Bellerose Civic Association.



Department of City Planning Queens Director John Young speaks. Other panel members include Sandra Atwell (President, Hollis 11423 Block Association), QCC President Emeritus & Founder Sean M. Walsh, Esq., who moderated, Paul DiBenedetto (President, Bayside Civic Database), Urban Planner and Historic Districts Council President Paul Graziano and Henry Euler (Zoning and Housing Chair, Auburndale Improvement Association), and Independent Urban Planner Paul Graziano (President, Historic Districts Council). Photo courtesy North Bellerose Civic Association.



A view from the Audience. Front left is QC Zoning and Code Enforcement Co-chair Joseph Amorosa. Photo courtesy North Bellerose Civic Association.