

Community must weigh in on City land use survey

The City posted a [survey](#) that aims at a “review” of the environmental process. You have only through May 22 so please act soon. Since the administration maintains a *de facto* – by its deed – commitment to gutting community boards Queens Civic Congress strongly urges its members and friends to respond to the [survey](#).

[CIVIC 2030](#), our platform, not only recognizes the important role of our community boards, but recommends the city adequately resource these local boards of citizen-volunteers each staffed by small team of caring pros who know how the city works. City Hall again cut the budgets for the board. I would certainly sacrifice a Deputy Mayor or two before I would let such dumb cuts get done.

In the meantime, please speak out for community boards and the need to staff them adequately as part of any response you make to the planning [questionnaire](#). My personal [experience](#) with community planning now approaching three decades including two of them in city government with the City Council and a borough president (including oversight of the agency's planning functions) found more problems with the process BEFORE projects and proposals came to the community board.

City Hall invites comments: *We are looking for input from all users of the environmental review process--including applicants, developers, community members and groups, consulting firms, agencies, community boards, and elected officials--on your experience with the City's management of the environmental review process. Parties who have participated in environmental review are encouraged to submit their opinions, views and recommendations about how City agencies can better manage the environmental review process.*

So please take them up on it at:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/misc/html/2009/environmental_questionnaire.html

Thank you to Community Board 13Q Chair and Queens Civic Congress Vice President Rich Hellenbrecht who shared the news article that follows on the next page.

Rich is reaching out to his fellow chairs to urge they respond to the survey.

http://www.globest.com/news/1401_1401/newyork/178402-1.html

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City Seeks Input on Environmental Review

By Paul Bubny

NEW YORK CITY-The Bloomberg administration is using a slowdown in construction starts as an opportunity to solicit input about the environmental review component of the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure of development projects. An online questionnaire about the environmental review process was launched Thursday and will be posted at nyc.gov until Friday, May 22.

According to a release, the survey is intended to help the city improve and expedite environmental review by identifying inefficiencies and proposing ways to improve the process. Mayor Michael Bloomberg says in a statement that "identifying opportunities to reduce costs and delays in the environmental review procedure will bring greater predictability to the process. By gathering information from stakeholders--from consultants to community boards--we will be positioned to improve the process without compromising environmental protection standards or public participation."

The survey solicits feedback on how projects should be prioritized and how agency resources should be allocated, as well as how the city might improve inter-agency coordination, the completion of timely and efficient analysis and communication among city agencies, applicants and the public, the release states. It does not, however, bring up the possibility of changes to ULURP or other policies.

Via the questionnaire, the city is seeking input from a variety of stakeholders, including applicants, developers, community members, civic groups, consulting firms, agencies, community boards and elected officials. Individuals with experience in the city's environmental review process are especially urged to participate, the release says.

An interagency team made up of representatives from the Office of the Mayor, the Office of Environmental Coordination, Department of City Planning, Department of Environmental Protection, New York City Economic Development Corp., New York City Law Department and other agencies will review the information and use it to inform potential improvements to the process.

To access the survey, click [here](#).