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QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS PASSES FIRST PLATFORM

“The Queens Civic Congress [QCC] unanimously passed its first platform at its first annual luncheon, Saturday, April 25, 1998,” announced Sean M. Walsh, QCC President. “City Council Deputy Majority Leader Archie Spigner delivered the Keynote Address emphasizing the need for policies help maintain and grow New York City’s vital middle class at the event at Reception House in Flushing,” noted Vice President for Public Affairs, Corey Bearak.

“Our Platforms and Resolutions Committee, chaired by Rich Hellenbrecht, developed an updated document, based on the platform of our predecessor organization, the Federation of Civic Councils,” stated QCC President Walsh. “The Queens Civic Congress outlined the position of Queens civics on the following:

Economic Development
Transportation - Aviation Issues
Transportation - JFK Access - Light Rail System
Transportation - Mass Transit/Vehicular Transportation
Land Use and Zoning
Illegal Conversions and Buildings Issues
Community Facilities
Parks and Recreation
Public Safety, Sanitation, Education, Health and Hospitals
City Governance.”

QCC Vice President Bearak added: “The Queens Civic Congress offers our platform to public officials and other policy makers. We hope to influence the discussion and debate on these basic issues which government must address to make our communities attractive and strong as we approach the new millenium.”

“Deputy Majority Leader Spigner covered a number of topics of importance to our City’s Future,” noted QCC Vice President Patricia A. Dolan, “including our schools, illegal housing, megastores and public safety.”

“You cannot have good viable communities without good schools,” stated Councilman Spigner to some 250 assembled civic delegates and community leaders. “The future of New York City will depend on the success we have in educating its future work force, future voters and future middle class.”

Borough President Claire Shulman issued a proclamation in recognition of the Congress and the proceedings, which her Executive Assistant Alex Rosa delivered to President Walsh and the rest of the QCC Executive Committee. In addition, the Borough President and the Congress honored QCC Founders Robert Harris, former President of the United Civic Council, and Albert Greenblatt, former President of the Eastern Queens Civic Council. The two councils spearheaded the formation of the eleven month old Congress to replace the Federation of Civic Councils of the Borough of Queens.

Elected officials attending the event included Councilman Sheldon Leffler, State Senator Frank Padavan (who led the Pledge of Allegiance) and Assembly Members Joseph Crowley (who sang the National Anthem), Mark Weprin, Ann Margaret Carrozza and Jeff Aubrey. Elected officials sending representatives included Governor George Pataki (Joseph O'Shea), State Senators Leonard Stavisky (Anthony Avella) and George Onorato (Len D'Amico), Council Members Noach Dear (Alex Lutz) and Morton Povman (Bruce Eiber) and Assembly Member Melinda Katz (Vicki Morales).

The next QCC Membership meeting takes place Monday, June 15, 1998, 7:30 p.m. at the Allen A.M.E. School in St. Albans and features a Keynote Address by former Member of Congress, Rev. Floyd H. Flake.

For more information on the QCC, call (718) 225-7807.

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[Editors Note: call Corey Bearak at (718) 343-6779 for a copy of the platform.]