

May 26, 1999

Honorable Peter V. Vallone
Speaker of the New York City Council
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Kennedy Light Rail System

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As the City Council begins deliberations on the Port Authority ULURP application for the proposed Kennedy Light Rail System, the Queens Civic Congress wants to reiterate its opposition to the Port's plan.

Additionally, we want to bring to your attention, and the attention of your members, the apparent attempt by the Port to offer a host of unrelated amenities in order to obtain approval of the LRS. One newspaper placed the value of these amenities at over \$40 million.

It is apparent to the Queens Civic Congress that the LRS approval process is a flagrant example of inappropriate monetary contributions of a developer, this time a governmental agency, to win discretionary approvals. This process is all too reminiscent of the 1995 Pathmark debacle.

I am attaching a listing of improvements promised by the Port – either at the Community Board Level or discussed in the press – and the reports of the Community Planning and Borough Boards that recite these promises.

We ask that you disapprove the Port's application as not being in the best interest of the borough of Queens and the City. We believe that the Council can exercise leadership and develop a one seat ride to both JFK and LaGuardia which will not destroy our neighborhoods.

Very truly yours,

Sean M. Walsh
President

c: Hon. Archie Spigner
Hon. John D. Sabini
Hon. Walter L. McCaffrey
Hon. Juanita E. Watkins
Hon. Morton Povman
Hon. Thomas White, Jr.
Hon. Sheldon S. Leffler
Hon. Karen Koslowitz
Hon. Helen M. Marshall
Hon. Julia Harrison
Hon. Michael J. Abel
Hon. Thomas V. Ognibene
Hon. Al Stabile