

January 5, 2002

Letter to the Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
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To the Editor:

Re: "The 20 Percent Solution" (January 3, 2002), The borough-wide Queens Civic Congress, which represents 100 civic, community, cooperative, condominium and tenant organizations, consistently advocates a strong role for borough presidents in the governance of our city. The Times editorial incorrectly states that, The presidents of New York City's five boroughs have far more patronage than responsibilities, and borough halls should be fertile ground for trimming and transferring out extra employees. In fact, the budgets of each borough president's office on December 18, 2001 were not adequate to minimally implement the mandates of the City Charter, as passed by the voters in 1989.

City Charter Chapter 4, particularly section 82, clearly requires borough presidents to monitor service delivery, review all capital projects in the borough, advise the mayor on the formulation of the Preliminary and Executive Budgets, provide technical assistance to community boards, and identify the borough's strategic needs.

Rather than cut the borough presidents' budget, we need to provide them the resources to empower each to carry out their charter functions and help New York City weather the current fiscal crisis.

Sincerely,

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