



Queens Civic Congress

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QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS URGES BUILDINGS TO ENFORCE RULES SUPPORTS JUNIPER PARK CIVIC CALL TO DEMOLISH ILLEGAL STRUCTURE BUILT BY NOTORIOUS TOMMY HUANG

Statement by Queens Civic Congress Vice President Harbachan Singh, co-chair, Zoning and Code Enforcement Committee

I am Harbachan Singh, a Vice President of the borough-wide Queens Civic Congress and a co-chair of its Zoning and Code Enforcement Committee. I also am active with my own Holliswood Civic Association and am a member of Queens Community Board 8. I make this statement in support of the Juniper Park Civic Association, one of the more than 110 neighborhood based civic organizations of Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization representing homeowners, co-op and condo residents, and tenants who reside in every part of Queens County. The Queens Civic Congress joins with the Juniper Park Civic Association and City Councilman Tony Avella, chair of the Council's Zoning Committee, in their call to the NYC Department of Buildings to make the notorious developer Tommy Huang abide by the law with respect to the illegal construction of 57-39 Mazeau Street in Maspeth.

At the November 19 open (to the public) executive committee meeting of the Queens Civic Congress, my Zoning and Code Enforcement Committee co-chair Joe Amoroso, and other community leaders discussed with the Buildings Department the need to hold those who ignore the law to strict compliance. We enjoyed a good dialogue with Deputy Commissioner Robert LiMandri and the Queens Civic Congress looks forward to pro-active, positive action in this clearly illegal situation. It sends the wrong message to builders and developers when the worst among them gets a pass; Mr. Huang's history with the RKO Keith landmark in Flushing says it all. If he gets to circumvent the rules, it is tantamount to a declaration of open season on our residential communities. This cannot be.

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[Editor's note: Information about the matter may be found in the advisory from the Juniper Park Civic Association that follows on the next page]

JPCA AND COUNCILMAN AVELLA TO HOLD MAZEAU STREET PRESS CONFERENCE THIS SUNDAY

The Juniper Park Civic Association and Councilman Tony Avella will hold a press conference on Sunday, December 2nd at 11:00am in front of 57-40 Mazeau Street in Maspeth.

JPCA and the councilman have been calling on the city to force the owner of 57-39 Mazeau Street, to demolish the four story structure because it violates the R4-1 zoning for this area and encroaches on the lot next door. Earlier this year, the owner instead demolished the original wood frame house, located at 57-37 Mazeau Street. He continues to negotiate with the Department of Buildings, looking for a way he can legalize the house.

This owner, Tommy Huang, is a convicted felon who destroyed the interior of the landmark RKO Keith's Theater in Flushing over a period of years beginning in 1987. The State Attorney General indicted Huang on a series of felony charges in 1997. The State found that among other infractions, Huang had "knowingly permitted hundreds of gallons of heating oil to spill into the basement of the theater in July 1996," and also allowed the improper removal of asbestos from the theater. After accepting a plea, he was fined \$5,000, ordered to clean up the mess he caused, and placed on 5 years probation instead of serving jail time. Huang never cleaned up the theater and was released from probation after only serving 14 months.

Meanwhile, across the street at 57-40 Mazeau Street, owner Stavros Stathakis has converted a garage into a house without permits. This house has \$2,500 in unresolved building violations and no certificate of occupancy, yet it is currently on the market with a \$600,000 asking price. Councilman Avella has written to Derek Lee, Queens Commissioner of Buildings, and Attorney General Andrew Cuomo about the property.

The JPCA and Councilman Avella are calling for greater enforcement of building and zoning codes. "These two homes facing each other on an otherwise quiet block are proof that builders feel they can get away with just about anything in Queens," said JPCA president Robert Holden.

Queens Civic Congress Members

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