



# Queens Civic Congress

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May 12, 2008

Hon. Michael Bloomberg  
Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Mayor:

On behalf of Queens Civic Congress, I write concerning the need for your administration, particularly the Department of City Planning and the Landmarks Preservation Commission, to accelerate protective efforts to preserve under- and unprotected neighborhoods in the Borough of Queens. While Queens communities welcomed an acceleration of protective initiatives in 2005, the pace of these efforts now take a considerable backseat to development projects that consume many of the staff and other resources needed to continue the efforts that slowed down since late 2005. I recently shared these concerns with representatives of Deputy Mayor Robert Leiber.

Queens Civic Congress requests the following actions to get the administration's protective initiatives back on track:

1. Immediate City Planning Certification for ULURP of all pending and proposed rezonings not later than June 30. City Council adoption of all contextual community downzoning (including but not limited to: Auburndale, Dutch Kills, Floral Park, Glendale, Hollis Hills, Kew Gardens Hills, Laurelton, Maspeth, North Flushing, Oakland Gardens, the entire Rockaway peninsula, Rosedale, Waldheim/Holly and sections of Bayside and Bellerose) applications not later than August 31, 2009.
2. City Council and City Planning Department file joint zoning applications within 30 days for additional contextual districts to cover un-protected and under-protected residential communities that lack appropriate or protective zoning designation(s) including but not limited to new One-Family Narrow Lot, One Family Row House, and "R1A" zones.
3. Landmarks Preservation Commission Calendaring of Queens locations for landmark designation as historic buildings, historic district and/ or historic spaces.
4. Allocate sufficient funds to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and Department of City Planning for staff to initiate and complete zoning studies and landmark designations.
5. End Self-Certification and Self-Inspection and require the Department of Buildings to follow zoning regulations and building codes rather create new interpretations that require new legislation to achieve the original intent meaning of laws. Even if the Department of Building implements this, pass legislation not later than August 31, 2008 to make this permanent.

6. Require an independent annual audit by the City Comptroller of all R1 through R6 NB and Alt applications to determine Building Department compliance with the requirement to end creative and new interpretations of zoning and codes.

7. Reform Community Facilities zoning to require a special permit for any bulk beyond what the existing zoning allows, not later than August 31, 2009.

The current Queens Civic Congress platform, [CIVIC 2030](#), covers of the land use and planning and related issues that remain of concern.

Thank you for your attention to this Queens Civic Congress request.

Sincerely,

*Corey Bearak*

Corey Bearak  
President

c. Hon. Helen Marshall  
Amanda Burden  
John Young, Queens DCP Director

**Queens Civic Congress [Members](#)**

Association of Old Forest Hills ♦ Auburndale Improvement Association ♦ Bayside Civic Database ♦ Bayside Clear-Spring Council ♦ Bayside Hills Civic Association ♦ Bayswater Civic Association ♦ Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Inc. ♦ Bellaire-BellVill Civic Association ♦ Belle Harbor Property Owners Association ♦ Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association ♦ Bellerose Hillside Civic Association ♦ Bell Park Manor Terrace Community Council ♦ Bowne Park Civic Association ♦ Briarwood Community Association ♦ Cambria Heights Civic Association ♦ Civic Association of Utopia Estates ♦ C.O.M.E.T. (Communities of Maspeth-Elmhurst Together) ♦ Concerned Citizens of Laurelton ♦ Cornucopia Society ♦ Creedmoor Civic Association ♦ Deerfield Area Association ♦ Doug-Bay Manor Civic Association ♦ Douglas Manor Association ♦ Douglaston Civic Association ♦ Dutch Kills Civic Assn. of Long Island City ♦ East Flushing Civic Association ♦ Federated Block Associations of Laurelton ♦ Federation of Civic Associations of Southeast Queens ♦ Floral Park Community Council ♦ Flushing Heights Civic Association ♦ Flushing on the Hill Taxpayers Association ♦ Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce ♦ Forest Hills Crescents Association ♦ Forest Hills-Van Court Association ♦ Fresh Meadows Homeowners Association ♦ Georgetown Mews ♦ Glendale Civic Association of Queens ♦ Glen Oaks Village Owners, Inc. ♦ Greater Astoria Historical Society ♦ Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association ♦ Harding Heights Civic Association ♦ Hillcrest Estates Civic Association ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #1 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #2 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #3 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #4 ♦ Hollis 11423 Block Association ♦ Hollis Hills Civic Association ♦ Holliswood Civic Association ♦ Hollis Park Gardens Civic Association ♦ Holly Civic Association ♦ Hyde Park Gardens Cooperative ♦ Jackson Heights Beautification Group ♦ Jamaica Estates Association ♦ Jamaica Hill Community Association ♦ Juniper Park Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Association ♦ Kew Gardens Improvement Association ♦ Kissena Park Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Bay Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Pines ♦ Long Island City Alliance ♦ Malba Civic Association ♦ Meadowlark Gardens Owners ♦ Middle Village Property Owners Association ♦ Mitchell Linden Civic Association ♦ Neponsit Property Owners Association ♦ Newtown Civic Association ♦ North Bellerose Civic Association ♦ North Flushing Civic Association ♦ North Hills Estates Civic Association ♦ Northwest Clearview Homeowners Association ♦ Norwood Civic Association ♦ Oakland Terrace/ Gardens Community Council ♦ Off Broadway Homeowners Association ♦ Our Neighborhood Improvement Association ♦ Our Neighbors Association of Ozone Park, Inc. ♦ Parkway Village Historical Society ♦ Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association ♦ Queens Colony Civic Association ♦ Queens Community Civic Corp. ♦ Queens Village Civic Association ♦ Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Association ♦ Richmond Hill Historical Society ♦ Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association ♦ Rockaway Park Homeowners/ Residents ♦ Rocky Hill Civic Association ♦ Rosedale Civic Association ♦ Royal Ranch Association. ♦ Southeast Queens Concerned Neighbors ♦ South Ozone Park West Civic Association ♦ Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association ♦ Station Road Civic Assoc. of Auburndale ♦ Sunnyside Gardens/Harrison Place Homeowners ♦ Surrey Estates Civic Association ♦ Union Turnpike Merchants Association ♦ United Forties Civic Association ♦ United Neighbors Civic Association ♦ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ♦ Wayanda Civic Association ♦ West Cunningham Park Civic Association ♦ Westmoreland Association ♦ Woodside Community Council