



# Queens Civic Congress

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October 5, 2009

Hon. David Paterson  
Governor  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
via [legislative.secretary@chamber.state.ny.us](mailto:legislative.secretary@chamber.state.ny.us)

RE: Hospital Closure Planning Act

Dear Governor Paterson:

Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization for more than 110 community and neighborhood groups representing tenants, co-op and condo owners and homeowners living in every part of Queens, urges you to sign the Hospital Closure Planning Act ([A8461-C/S5802-A](#)) sponsored by Senator Shirley Huntley and Assembly Member Rory Lancman into law.

Queens has [experienced](#) the closure of [three](#) hospitals within the last year. The Berger Commission found two of these facilities as essential. These [closures](#) happen so suddenly and without any adherence to applicable Department of Health (DOH) closure regulations. Members of the communities served by the hospitals received little or no advanced notice of their closure. To this day, we do not know how many individuals lost access to primary care providers. These [closures](#) have created critically overcrowded Emergency Departments in the hospitals that remain. The surge in patients who require admission when inpatient beds remain full and unavailable forces hospitals to treat patients in spaces inappropriate for such care.

The Hospital Closure Planning Act would require a public hearing within 30 days of notice of a hospital's plans to close, or of its involuntary closure. This would provide the community served by the hospital an opportunity to voice its concerns. Such a fact-finding hearing would provide vital information as the DOH performs its due diligence in reviewing a hospital's submitted Closure Plan. It would also foster transparency since it would also provide information to the communities explaining the reasons for any proposed closing. Many community members currently believe that the DOH closed Mary Immaculate in Jamaica and St. John's Queens Hospital in Elmhurst despite many DOH statements to the contrary.

If you wish to discuss this legislation, please contact Kevin J. Forrestal, Queens Civic Congress Health and Humans Services Committee Chair at (718) 579-5019 or [KJForrestal@gmail.com](mailto:KJForrestal@gmail.com) Queens Civic Congress strongly urges you to sign A8461/S5802 into law. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Corey Bearak*  
Corey B. Bearak, Esq.  
President

Find Queens Civic Congress [Members](#) on the next or on the web at: <http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>.

## 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. ♦ Bay Terrace Cooperative Section 1 ♦ 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 ♦ Broadway-Flushing Homeowners 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 Association of Long Island City ♦ East Elmhurst Corona Civic Association ♦ 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 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 ♦ Newtown Historical Society ♦ North Bellerose Civic Association ♦ North Flushing Civic Association ♦ North Hills Estates Civic Association ♦ Northwest Clearview Homeowners Association ♦ Norwood Neighborhood Association ♦ Oakland Terrace/ Gardens Community Council ♦ Off Broadway Homeowners Association ♦ Our Neighborhood Improvement Association ♦ Our Neighbors Civic 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 Association Civic ♦ 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 Mutual Veterans Housing, Inc. ♦ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ♦ Wayanda Civic Association ♦ West Cunningham Park Civic Association ♦ Westmoreland Association ♦ Woodside Community Council