

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1998

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**QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS COMMENTS CITY CHARTER
COMMISSION'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROPOSAL**

In testimony presented Thursday, August 13, 1998 to the Mayor's Charter Revision Commission, the Queens Civic Congress [QCC] commented on the proposal to consider charter amendments on campaign finance. The statement, presented at the meeting at Queens Borough Hall, by QCC Vice President Pat Dolan of Kew Gardens Hills, follows:

Good Evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening.

The Queens Civic Congress is a coalition of ninety-two civic organizations representing neighborhood throughout the Borough of Queens.

The Congress recognizes the need to reform New York City's campaign finance practices. We will present the commission with our written analysis of your proposal next week.

There is no need for a Charter revision at this time; any changes, including ones calling for reforms of campaign financing, can be made by revision of law or by an individual referendum call.

We stand by our testimony before the commission in July: The City Charter is our city's constitution which sets down the basic structure of city government. Revising the Charter is a serious matter that goes to the heart of our democracy. We have little confidence in a Commission that was formed solely as a means of preventing the City Council's Yankee Stadium issue from appearing on the ballot.

We take the opportunity of this final hearing in Queens of the Commission's current cycle of deliberations to once again caution you that we view any attempt by any charter revision commission to further centralize power or decision making especially in the area of land use, ULURP or the budget as a provocation that could inspire a new call for secession.