

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS FORUM:
WHEN AS-OF-RIGHT IS WRONG (Continued)
Community Facilities Siting and Zoning, Monday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.**

The Queens Civic Congress [QCC] holds a forum on the impact of inappropriate Community Facilities and Illegal Building and Inappropriate Development, Monday, March 19, 7:30 p.m., announced President Sean M. Walsh. The meeting, at the Kew Gardens Community Center, Suite 202, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, corner Union Turnpike and Queens Boulevard, will highlight the problems “when community facilities and illegal and inappropriate development does not facilitate communities and ” advised Executive Vice President for Land Use and Development Patricia Dolan who coordinated the programs.

The Queens Civic Congress hopes to use our March 19 forum to galvanize City Hall and our community’s representatives to deal with this daunting problem, said President Walsh.

The Community Facilities panel includes North Flushing Civic Association’s Tyler Cassell, Kew Gardens Civic Association President Dominick Pistone, Hillcrest Estates President Kevin Forrestal, Municipal Arts Society general counsel Holly Leight and Queens Borough President Claire Shulman’s Planning Director Irving Poy, and Ken Bergin from the Department of City Planning. Vice President John Liu, whose North Flushing community is besieged by these facilities, arranged and moderates the program.

A second panel, of Queens civic leaders - Queens Village Civic Association President Nagassar Ramgarib, Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association President Paul Kerzner, Jamaica Estates Association’s Fran Lieu and Kew Gardens Civic Association President Murray Berger - will look in-depth at buildings and zoning enforcement, illegal conversions, tear-downs, self certification, access, compliance and inappropriate and illegal development, as well as the work of the Mayor’s Oversight Commission on the Department of Buildings. Bellerose Commonwealth President Richard Hellenbrecht, also the Land Use chair of Community Board 13, moderates the program.

“Our nearly 100 Queens civic organizations maintain a strong interest in strengthening zoning and preserving the unique character of our various neighborhoods” said Executive Vice President Patricia Dolan who is responsible for Land Use, Community Review and related matters for the Congress.

“The Queens Civic Congress membership represents almost every community in the borough” noted Executive Vice President Corey Bearak, who oversees legislative and public affairs and related matters for the Congress. “The Queens Civic Congress Online, its website, www.queensciviccongress.org, provides information on upcoming events, the civic congress platform and resource links to government, non-profit and community organizations.”