

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, July 30, 2001

Contact:
Pat Dolan (718) 263-1760
Dave Kulick (718) 539-8452

QUEENS CIVICS NIX OLYMPICS IN PARK

On the eve of the United States Olympic Committee's visit to New York to review NYC 2012's bid to make the city the host for the 2012 Summer Games, the Queens Civic Congress is calling on NYC2012 to withdraw its proposal to conduct water sports events in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

"A New York City Olympiad could be an enormously exciting event for millions of sports fans and for New Yorkers. However, the entire project could founder on the choice of venues," said Queens Civic Congress executive vice president Patricia Dolan who is also president of the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association.

"Queens residents will not stand idly by as the protected wetlands around Willow Lake, the playgrounds at Meadow Lake and the ball fields near the Unisphere are destroyed for a three week extravaganza," continued Dolan. "It is time for NYC2012 to make good on their planning director Alexander Garvin's promise that alternate sites are available and to remove the park as a venue for water sports from their bid," she said.

"We are mindful that the effects of NYC 2012's plan will likely displace communities of color, new immigrants and residents of underserved neighborhoods from Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Residents of these communities depend on the park for recreation and cultural activities," said Queens Civic Congress Vice President and environmental chair Margo Hill who is president of the Southeast Queens Coalition of Concerned Neighbors.

"Park users, environmentalists, civic activists and park advocates will build a firewall around these sites to protect them from being lost to the public," said the Queens Civic Congress parks chair David Kulick who is also president of the Flushing on the Hill Civic Association.

Borough President candidates Helen Marshall, Carol Gresser and Sheldon Leffler as well as City Council candidates Barry Grodenchick, Jim Gennaro, David Reich and Melinda Katz whose districts include the park sites have publicly stated their opposition to locating the water events in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. "We are actively discussing the park sites with other candidates for public office and expect their whole-hearted support," said Kulick.

The Queens Civic Congress is a borough wide coalition of 100 neighborhood-based civic and community groups.