

December 12, 2002

Hon. Amanda Burden
Chairperson & Director
City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007-1216

Dear Chairperson:

Since our conversation in your office several months ago, the issue of community facilities has become even more pressing issue. I would like to extend an invitation for you to address the Queens community. If your staff could call me with dates when you available, I will arrange the meeting.

In discussions with Councilman Avella and your staff, I have expressed our position that the elimination of the "bulk" bonus with some limited exceptions as well as the required parking requirements for community facilities are essential to any meaningful reform.

Our legal analysis is that the present Community Facility exemption as it relates to religious facilities violates the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and with respect to non-religious facilities violates the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

We believe it is important that an orderly amendment of the Zoning Resolution is the best solution to resolve these issues rather than a court imposed resolution. We look forward to working with you and your staff, and thank you for your efforts on this and other planning issues.

Very truly yours,

SEAN M. WALSH
President