



Queens Civic Congress

P.O. Box 238, Flushing, NY 11363 (718) 225-2807 fax: (718) 225-2818

President Sean M. Walsh **Executive Vice Presidents** Corey Bearak Patricia Dolan **Secretary** Seymour Schwartz **Treasurer** James Trent

Founders Robert Harris Albert Greenblatt **Vice Presidents** Kenneth Cohen David Kulick Edwin Westley Richard Hellenbrecht Tina Chan Paul Kerzner Nagassar Ramgarib Audrey Lucas Thomas Paino

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2003

Contact:
Corey Bearak
(718) 343-6779

QUEENS CIVICS WORKSHOP ON BSA, 3/24, 7:30 p.m.

The next Queens Civic Congress meeting, a workshop on the Board of Standards and Appeals, takes place Monday, March 24, 7:30 p.m. at the Union Plaza Nursing Home, 33-23 Union Street, Flushing (three blocks north of Northern Blvd.), announced QCC President Sean M. Walsh. "The workshop on Board of Standards procedures for civic associations offers a basic primer since developers and others turn to this forum to circumvent zoning restrictions meant to protect neighborhood integrity and character," stated Mr. Walsh. "Sooner or later decisions by BSA affect almost every New Yorker. It includes whether an outsized building can be located on your block or whether a commercial use will be permitted in contravention of the prevailing zoning." The Queens Civic Congress represents 100 civic, community, condo, co-operative, homeowner and tenant organizations. Its membership represents almost every community in the borough.

Land use attorney Eric Palatnik, who has represented many clients before the BSA will discuss BSA rules and requirements and provide guidance to civic leaders on how to approach the agency on behalf of community groups, said Patricia Dolan, QCC Executive Vice President for Land Use and Planning, who arranged the workshop.

Since the 1989 City Charter proscribed the demise of the old Board of Estimate and transferred many zoning powers formerly exercised by that board of executives to the City Council, no formal appeals process, short of a judicial proceeding exists for civics and other community groups who find fault with a decision of the Board of Standards and Appeals, noted QCC Executive Vice President for Public and Legislative Affairs Corey Bearak. For more information, call (718) 263-1760.

In other business, QCC members will hear reports on community facilities by Mr. Walsh and QCC Community Facilities Zoning Chair Tyler Cassell. The Queens Civic Congress and its members initiated a petition drive calling on "the Mayor, Members of the City Council, and Members of the City Planning Commission to remedy the problems plaguing our communities from the Community Facility provisions of the New York City Zoning Resolution." The Congress already circulated the petition in its newsletter, the Queens Civic Congressional, and through emails to its member-organizations. The Petition will soon be available on the Queens Civic Congress website for interested individuals to copy and circulate in their communities. Later this week the Congress will unveil an online petition drive as

well. The Congress efforts focuses on the need for city planners to remove the "Bulk Bonus" and mandate parking requirements for all such facilities in all "R" zones for all community facilities as part of a text change to the City's Zoning Resolution.

-30-

The entire Queens Civic Congress Platform may be viewed on the internet at
<http://www.queensciviccongress.org/Platform/02platform.htm>

Queens Civic Congress Members

Assoc. of Old Forest Hills Bayside Hills Civic Assoc. Bayswater Civic Assoc. Bay Terrace Community Alliance
Beachside Bungalow Preservation Assoc. Bellaire/Belvill Civic Assoc. Belle Harbor Property Owners Bellerose-
Commonwealth Civic Assoc. Bellerose-Hillside Civic Assoc. Bell Park Manor-Terrace Community Council Bowne
Park Civic Assoc. Briarwood Community Assoc. Cambria Heights Civic Assoc. College Point Civic Taxpayers
Assoc. COMET Concerned Citizens of Laurelton Creedmoor Civic Assoc. Doug-Bay Manor Civic Assoc.
Douglaston Civic Assoc. Douglas Manor Assoc East Flushing Civic Assoc. Federation of Laurelton Block
Associations Floral Park Community Council Flushing on the Hill Civic Assoc. Flushing Heights Civic
Assoc. Flushing Suburban Civic Assoc. Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce Forest Hills Community & Civic
Assoc. Forest Hills Crescents Assoc. Forest Hills-Van Court Assoc. Fresh Meadows Homeowners Assoc.
Georgetown Mews Glen Oaks Village Owners Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association Harding Heights
Civic Assoc. Harrison Place/Sunnyside Gardens Hillcrest Estates Civic Assoc. Hilltop Village Co-op #4 Hollis
Hills Civic Assoc. Holliswood Civic Assoc. Hollis Park Gardens Assoc. Holly Civic Assoc. Howard Beach Civic
Forum Hunters Point Community Coalition Hyde Park Gardens Jackson Heights Beautification Group Jamaica
Estates Assoc. Jamaica Hill Community Assoc. Joint Community Council College Point Juniper Park Civic
Assoc. Kew Forest Neighborhood Civic Assoc. Kew Gardens Civic Assoc. Kew Gardens Hills Civic Assoc.
Kissena Park Civic Assoc. Little Neck Bay Civic Assoc. Little Neck Community Assoc. Little Neck Pines Assoc.
Locust Manor Neighborhood Civic Assoc. Lost Community Civic Assoc. Malba Civic Association Middle Village
Property Owners Mitchell-Linden Civic Assoc. 97 Place Block Assoc. Newtown Civic Assoc. North Bellerose
Civic Assoc. North Flushing Civic Assoc North Hills Estates Civic Assoc. North Queens Homeowners Civic
Assoc. North Star Civic Assoc. Norwood Neighborhood Association Oakland Terrace/Gardens Council Off
Broadway Homeowners Ozone Tudor Civic Assoc. Queensboro Hills Neighborhood Assoc. Queens Colony Civic
Assoc. Queens Community Civic Corp. Queens Village Civic Assoc. Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Assoc.
Richmond Hill Historic Assoc. Ridgewood Property Owners Assoc. Robinwood Property Owners Rockaway Action
Committee Rockaway Beach Civic Assoc. Rocky Hill Civic Assoc. Rosedale Civic Assoc. Royal Ranch
Assoc. Sagamore Douglaston Civic Assoc. Southeast Queens Coalition of Concerned Neighbors South Ozone Park
Coalition of Block Associations South Ozone Park West Civic Assoc. Springfield/Rosedale Community Assoc.
Sunnyside Gardens Harrison Place Surrey Estates Civic Assoc. The Federation of Civic Associations of Southeast
Queens The Property Civic Assoc. Union Turnpike Merchants Assoc. United Forties Civic Assoc. United
Neighbors Civic Assoc. of Jamaica Utopia Estates Civic Assoc. Utopia Improvement Assoc. Village Mall at
Hillcrest Waldheim Neighborhood Assoc. Wayanda Civic Assoc. West Cunningham Park Civic Assoc.
Westmoreland Assoc. Woodside Community Council