



04/03/2008

## Civic Leaders Impatient For Zoning Resolution

by Jillian Abbott , Chronicle Reporter



*(Jillian Abbott)* Department of City Planning Queens Director John Young faced a hostile audience at a zoning forum organized by the Queens Civic Congress in Kew Gardens.

**Angry civic leaders and frustrated residents shouted and groaned their way through a meeting on Queens zoning on Monday night.**

**John Young, Queens director of the Department of City Planning, added his name to a long list of city officials who have faced hostile groups of residents over community facilities, sewage infrastructure, and zoning in the past year.**

Monday's forum, hosted by the Queens Civic Congress, was attended by the borough's best known and most active civic leaders.

"You looked me in the eye and lied to me two years ago," said Janet McEaney, president of the Northwest Clearview Civic Association. She is outraged because the area she represents has been passed over for rezoning time and time again, despite promises from City Planning. The area's current zoning, R 4, leaves residents vulnerable to high density residential development.

Evelyn Attenburg from Jamaica Estates, who faces the prospect of a 500-bed St. John's University dorm right next to her home, demanded an explanation for the current regulations governing the height of community facilities.

Young told the meeting that his department hears the residents' concern and is working as fast as it can to complete the rezoning.

This statement served to increase tension rather than defuse it, because many community activists present felt that they had heard this before.

"Every time we meet, the city says, 'I hear you,' but nothing ever happens," said Henry Euler from the Auburndale Improvement Association.

All efforts to have Young give a concrete time frame for the rezoning failed, which left many present shouting "When. When is our rezoning going to happen?"

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