

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
PUBLIC HEARING – NORTH FLUSHING REZONING PROPOSAL
MARCH 18, 2009

STATEMENT

Good morning everyone. As president of the North Flushing Civic Association in Queens, and a homeowner in the area, I must say this is a joyous day. We have been seeking rezoning of our area for over 10 years, and now that day is close at hand.

Over the years we and our neighbors have fought to preserve the low-density residential qualities of our community. Sometimes we won, but very often we lost. We continued to lose many battles due to the out-of-date zoning that has been in place since 1961. We watched impatiently as other communities around us were rezoned over the last 4 years. Now our turn is here at last and we are pleased to be here today.

The North Flushing Rezoning proposal covers 257 blocks contained in 2 Community Boards – Community Board 7, and Community Board 11. This was an opportunity for both Community Boards to work together, and we did so in true community spirit. At a joint public hearing, we drew over 200 members and homeowners to discuss the zoning proposal. Both Community Boards have voted overwhelming in favor of the proposal, and overwhelmingly in favor of the new R1-2A text. This new text was specifically created to help preserve the lowest density parts of our communities. The city has very few of these zones left, so it is extremely important to save them.

I want to thank Borough President, Helen Marshall, for her leadership in the Borough. I want to personally thank Borough Director of City Planning, John Young, Brendan Pillar, and the Queens staff that have worked so hard and diligently on this and other rezonings in Queens. Without their knowledge, dedication, and spirit of cooperation, we would not be here today. It is very rare that a City has such dedicated public servants on one team, in one City agency, at the same time. We salute them for a job superbly done.

This rezoning plan is now before you at City Planning. We urge you to support the rezoning plan and the R1-2A text as presented. We look forward to raising our glasses in a toast when the North Flushing Rezoning has been approved by Council.

Thank you,

Tyler D. Cassell

President, North Flushing Civic Association
Member of Community Board # 7
Vice President, Queens Civic Congress
Member of the Queens Zoning Task Force

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