

Comments on 23rd District Candidates Forum

[Updated June 28, 2009]

The [TimesLedger](#) already posted to its new [QueensCampaigner](#) blog, a [story](#) about Queens Civic Congress/ Queens Coalition for Parks and Greens Spaces Candidates forum also sponsored by New Yorkers for Parks/ [Parks2009](#) and Historic District Council's [League of Preservation Voters](#) and hosted by North Bellerose Civic Association. Many other area civics also co-sponsored the program, which is the first of several scheduled in Queens Council Districts.

For the convenience of readers of QueensCampaigner (and the TimesLedger), I link to the [news release](#) announcing the forum which included links to the relevant topics - *Parks* and *Preservation*.

Also, the questions from the audience focused on those issues. The problem occurred because Mr. Singh -- in an apparent attempt to divert fault for his admitted unpreparedness on the topics --unfairly and wrongly complained about notice of the topics of the forum. The topic had been advertised at [North Bellerose Civic Association](#) (NBCA) meetings in April and May (which he attended - and was noted on the agenda. The May newsletter for the NBCA, "Newsbits", which I edit, advertised the meeting as "Parks2009 City Council Candidates Forum (co-sponsored by Queens Civic Congress, Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces and New Yorkers for Parks)." How can one reading that title conclude the topic was anything else?

The subsequent May 11 [announcement](#) by Queens Civic Congress of its May 19 Parks [forum](#) included a note that, at the June Candidates forum, Queens Civic Congress would "announce candidates forums focused on Parks and Preservation issues for Queens City Council Candidates also sponsored by New Yorkers for Parks' Parks2009 and Historic District Council's League of Preservation Voters during the month of June."

At the meeting Queens Civic Congress [announced](#) the candidates forums, which was also posted on this website.

I mention this because Mr Singh is a [Facebook](#) "friend". I routinely post to Facebook (and [Twitter](#) and [Linkedin](#)) when I post statements to Queens Civic Congress and other websites I maintain.

It just makes the comments by Mr. Singh clearly disingenuous and I welcome his apologize for trying to blame another.

The subsequent invite which was emailed to Mr. Singh's real estate office email (his campaign website lacked any email address less than a week before the meeting) subsequently also noted the Forum as covering "Parks and Preservation" (because of a subsequent decision to include the Queens Civic Congress partnership with the Historic District Council's League of Preservation Voters.

That email included links to the Parks2009 [survey](#) which New Yorkers for Parks sent to every Council candidate (not just in district 24), to the LPV, and to the Queens Civic Congress "[CIVIC 2030](#)" platform (all easily found in the news release noted above in the second paragraph of this post).

And quite frankly any candidate doing due diligence on a candidates forum (or any other community meeting) would, on their own, contact the sponsors, determine the core issues, and make sure they have pertinent responses to the issues expected to be raised.

For events involving the Queens Civic Congress, candidates and others need only go to our [website](#) to view or [platforms](#), our [meetings](#) and our [media](#) posts which include statements, testimonies and comments. Any failure to do raises questions if a candidate seriously maintains an interest in core civic and community issues.

At the very least out of this episode so early in the campaign season, I hope anyone who neglected to do their homework, or who has upcoming forums or other meetings in other districts, takes note and avoid the "F" grade that gets assigned to any candidate who fails to do her or his homework.

-Corey Bearak, President. Queens Civic Congress



Council Debate Gets Heated After Sign-Stealing Accusation

Posted by [Howard Koplowitz](#) in [City Council](#), [District 23](#) on June 4, 2009



A debate between the three candidates vying to replace City Councilman David Weprin (D-Hollis) in November descended into chaos Wednesday night when one of the candidates publicly accused a community leader of stealing his campaign signs.

Read the entire story posted on QueensCampaigner at <http://www.yournabe.com/blogs/queenscampaigner/?p=303>

Comment posted to the above article by Frederick Kress, President of the Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces Says:

[June 25th, 2009 at 1:51 pm](#)

The Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces stands with our parks partner-The Queens Civic Congress on these issues.

All candidates should do their 'homework' and properly prepare for any forum or debate. Failure to properly prepare shows a cavalier attitude and reflects negatively on the seriousness of the candidate seeking the position. We need people in office that are properly prepared, especially when given adequate notice.

It is a sad day when candidates do not prepare and take these public forums seriously. Any support of these candidates must be seriously reconsidered.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted:

Frederick J. Kress