

QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS, INC.

The Queens Civic Congressional
PO. Box 238, Flushing, NY 11363

Corey Bearak, President

www.queensciviccongress.org

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VOLUME 12, ISSUE 6

The next Queens Civic Congress Meeting:

Monday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.

***A Panel Discussion:
Health Care or Health Insurance
[See details page 3]**

***Report of Nominating Committee
*Election of Officers**

at the Al Oerter Recreation Center

131-40 Fowler Ave. (off College Point Blvd)

Flushing NY 11355

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President's Message

Dear Members,

On October 9, candidates running for City Council, Borough President, City Comptroller, Public Advocate and Mayor received the *2009 Queens Civic Congress Candidates Survey* (See page 4 for the survey questions.). Candidates were asked to submit their responses as soon as possible and were promised that responses would be posted on our website as soon as practicable after receipt. Queens Civic Congress also advised candidates that, starting October 23, we will also post a list of candidates and whether or not they responded to the survey and link the responses to each survey. The responses will also be shared with the News media and our member organizations – you. Find the candidate responses received to date at our website's Platform link (See: <http://queensciviccongress.org/platform/index.php>); this includes a separate list of all elected officials and candidates who indicate their support for our CIVIC 2030 platform. Also the first link in our Media section through election day includes links to all candidate responses (See: http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-11-03_Responses.pdf). Special Thanks to Executive Vice President Patricia Dolan and Secretary Sey Schwartz for pulling this special project together after a discussion at our September board member.

Thank you also to QCC's Park co-Chair Kim Ohanian who arranged for our meeting space in the beautiful Al Oerter Rec. Center on the eastern perimeter of Flushing Meadows Corona Park. We used it for Going Green in Queens last Spring, a candidates forum and our September board meeting.

Queens legislators led by Assembly Member Rory Lancman and Senator Shirley Huntley developed and passed legislation that would require a public hearing within 30 days of notice of a hospital's plans to close, or of its involuntary closure. It very simply would empower the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to reassure our fellow citizens of what steps DOH will take to insure that adequate health and hospital care resources for affected communities remain in place. Unfortunately, the Governor disappointingly vetoed this sound legislation.

We continue to work with our members on candidates forum to make sure candidates address civic concerns and issues. New Yorkers for Parks and Historic Districts Council's League of Preservation Voters (LPV) sponsored many of the forums. Queens Civic Congress participates in NY4P's Parks 2009 and LPV's efforts to survey candidates. Find responses posted respectively at <http://www.hdc.org/preservationvoters.htm> and http://www.ny4p.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=485&Itemid=271.

Sincerely,

Corey

Corey B. Bearak (718-343-6779; Bearak@aol.com)

Queens Civic Congress

Presents



A Panel Discussion:

Health Care or Health Insurance

What is it that really matters?

Monday, October 19, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

*at the Al Oerter Recreation Center
131-40 Fowler Ave. (off College Point Blvd)
Flushing NY 11355*

Panel:

****Congressman Anthony Weiner***

****Norman Michaels, Queens Chamber of Commerce***

****Inderpal Chhabra, MD, Queens Medical Society***

****Ann Sullivan, Sr. VP, Queens Health Network***

Moderated by:
Kevin J. Forrestal, Chair,
Queens Civic Congress Health & Human Service Committee

Admission FREE * RSVP (718) 343-6779 or email Bearak@aol.com

Makes sure your local candidates respond to the
Queens Civic Congress 2009 Candidates Survey

Land Use/ Zoning

Will you support retaining zoning regulations that subject development of big box stores to public land review in most NYC neighborhoods? Yes____ No ____

Will you support legislation enabling the city to force violators to comply with Zoning Resolution and Building Code violations? Yes____ No ____

Will you support legislation authorizing City Council review of BSA decisions? Yes____ No ____

How do you envision the role of community boards in planning for neighborhood growth, budgeting and quality of life issues.

Building and Code Enforcement

Will you sponsor legislation-called for by the Queens Civic Congress—to give the city authority to issue summons by DOB, FDNY and HPD to property owners who refuse accesss to their properties where a complaint of an illegal use exists. Yes____ No ____

Would you rescind the Department of Building’s Rules 105-03 and 105-04 which limit challenges by the public to new construction for a period of 45 days after the issuance of work permits? Yes____ No ____

Water Rates

Will you sponsor legislation to abolish the NYC Water Board whose only function seems to be to raise revenue for whichever Mayor happens to occupy City Hall? Yes____ No ____

In view of the exponentially rising property taxes and water use charges, will you support returning the cost of water supply and treatment facilities capital expenses to New York City’s capital budget? Yes____ No ____

New Yorkers are fed up with so called enforcement of quality of life violations. Will you support legislation to authorize traffic and other enforcement agents issue summonses for dumping, littering and similar offenses? Yes____ No ____

Parks/ Concessions

Will you support calls by park advocates for changes in the rules for major concessions that will require public review of changes in the use, design and configuration of parks, playgrounds and major features therein? Yes____ No ____

Will you support tightening rules for major concessions? Yes____ No ____

Discretionary Funding

How will you decide which groups to support with City Council member funds?_____

How will you respond to situations where a group seeking funding employs a person who is your relative or is a relative of a staff member?_____

CIVIC 2030

Have you read the Queens Civic Congress Platform*, CIVIC 2030? Yes____ No ____

Do you support CIVIC 2030? Yes____ No ____
Yes, but with exceptions ____ Please list: _____

*CIVIC 2030 may be viewed or downloaded at <http://queensciviccongress.org/platform/CIVIC2030.pdf>
The 2009 QCC Candidates Survey may be downloaded at http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-10-09_Survey.pdf

**Queens Civic Congress
Foundation
presents...**



***12th Annual
Legislative Reception***

Sunday, December 6, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

At the beautiful and historic
Douglaston Club
(former Van Zandt Mansion, built 1819)
600 West Drive - Douglas Manor Historic District

Tickets are \$25 each and include light refreshments.

Enjoy an opportunity to meet Queens
and Citywide elected officials on a one-on-one basis.

Open to Queens Civic Congress members only.
Members must be paid up through 2009.

Reservations by November 28
Mail to James Trent, QCCF Treasurer
242-33 90th Avenue
Bellerose Manor, NY 11426-1115

Make checks payable to:
Queens Civic Congress Foundation

Please include the name of your civic
and the names of your intended attendees.

For information, [***jtrent8830@aol.com***](mailto:jtrent8830@aol.com)

Nominating Committee

The QCC Officer Nominating Committee was elected in June. According to our bylaws, The officers are: President, Executive Vice President, Vice Presidents (no less than one and no more than eleven, as determined by the Congress), a Treasurer, a Secretary, and the three Founders, including the President-Emeritus. All officers sit and vote as members of the Executive Committee. Save for the Founders, all officers shall serve one-year terms. QCC's Nominating Committee consists of five persons, of which three shall be elected by the Executive Committee (including its Chair) and two by the Regular Members.

The Queens Civic Congress nominating committee – Helene Zaro, chair, and members Barbara Larkin, Fred Kress, Marc Haken, and Audrey Lucas – recommend the following Slate of Officers (new underlined) for election at our October meeting:

President: Corey Bearak *Executive Vice President:* Patricia Dolan

Secretary: Seymour Schwartz *Treasurer:* James Trent

Vice Presidents: Tyler Cassell, Paul Graziano, Richard Hellenbrecht, Paul Kerzner, David Kulick, Barbara Larkin, Audrey Lucas, Kathy Masi, Harbachan Singh, Edwin Westley, & Dorothy Woo.

By our By-Laws, our executive committee also includes *Founders:* President Emeritus Sean Walsh, Albert Greenblatt and Robert Harris.

QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS IN ACTION

View our Website at www.QueensCivicCongress.org to learn about our efforts. We post letters, testimonies, statements and comments at www.QueensCivicCongress.org/Media.

At www.queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-10-03_FeedGreenCashCow.pdf, we urged members and others to call 3-1-1 or email the mayor since the parks department announces aggressive efforts to create more concessions (AKA private uses of public spaces) in our parks.

At www.queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-09-09_Saviours-CB5.pdf, we supported community efforts to create a park on the site of the former St. Saviour's Church.

At www.queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-08-24_Authorities.pdf, we urged the Governor to sign legislation to introduce much needed oversight and sunlight into the administration of public authorities that operate in New York. The Governor is negotiating the bill with the legislature.

At www.queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-07-24_Somethin_goin_on.pdf, we commented on Wayne Barrett's Village Voice investigative report (too long to just call it an article) on the Deutsche Bank fire that killed two NYC firefighters and the actions, inactions and general irresponsibility exhibited at the highest levels,

At www.queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2009/2009-07-15_DOB_Audit.pdf, we commented on the City Comptroller's audit of the NYC Department of Buildings and its recommendations that brought new attention to a significant Quality of Life problem long endured in Queens – The building of illegal units or their conversion by adding of apartment units through subdivisions or additions to existing housing in excess of the established zoning and use group regulations poses major public safety and quality of life problems.

Queens Civic Congress Calendar

Meetings of the Executive Committee are open to all QCC members and take place at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). If you wish to add an agenda item, please call Corey Bearak (343-6779) or email [Bearak@aol.com](mailto: Bearak@aol.com) at least 24 hours in advance.

*****2009-2010 Meeting Schedule *****

Monday, October 19, 2009, 7:30 p.m. – Health Forum, Election of Officers (See Page three for details)

Monday, November 16, 2009, 7:30 p.m. – Executive Committee at Al Oerter Center

Sunday, December 6, 2009, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Legislative Reception & Installation of Officers at Douglaston Club, 600 West Drive, Douglaston

Monday, February 1, 2010, 7:30 p.m. – Executive Committee

Monday, March 15, 2010, 7:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting

Sunday, April 18, 2010, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Biennial Luncheon at Antun's, 96-43 Springfield Boulevard

Sunday, May 16, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – Statewide Races Forum at Samuel Field Y, 58-20 Little Neck Parkway

Monday, May 17, 2010, 7:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting

Monday, June 21, 2010, 7:30 p.m. – Executive Committee

*****Special Events of Interest*****

Thursday, October 15, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Broadway Flushing Homeowners Association Candidates Forum co-sponsored by Queens Civic Congress at the Church on the Hill, 35th Avenue between 167th & 168th Street. Confirmed City Council Candidates Kevin Kim and Dan Halloran and Borough President Helen Marshall and opponent Robert Hornak.

Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m., 32nd Council District Candidates Forum hosted by Belle Harbor Property Owners Association sponsored by Queens Civic Congress and HDC's League of Preservation Voters at PS 114, 134-01 Cronston Ave. bet. Beach 134th & Beach 135th Streets, The Rockaways. Confirmed City Council Candidates Frank Gulluscio and Eric Ulrich.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Auburndale Improvement Association candidates forum for 19th and 20th Council Districts co-sponsored by Queens Civic Congress and Historic Districts Council's League of Preservation Voters at Reception House, 167-17 Northern Blvd., Flushing.

Thursday, October 22, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Preservation Symposium sponsored by Bayside Historical Society, Queens Civic Congress and Historic District Council's League of Preservation Voters at the Officers' Club in Fort Totten Park (Bayside Historical Society's headquarters). Panelists include NYS Sen. Frank Padavan; NYC Council Zoning Subcommittee Chair Tony Avella; Kevin Wolfe, an architect and preservationist representing the Historic Districts Council; Queens Community Board 11 zoning chair Christine Haider; and a Queens Civic Congress representative.

2009 Committee Chairs

Audit / Phil Ragusa, CPA
By Laws / Albert Greenblatt
Aviation & Noise / Richard Hellenbrecht
City Infrastructure & Capital Program / Dorothy Woo
Community & Civic Outreach / Robert Harris & Audrey Lucas
Community Facilities / Tyler Cassell
Congress Platform / Seymour Schwartz
Co-ops & Condos / Marc Haken
Creedmoor Task Force / Bernard Aquilino
Economic Development / Chris Collett
Education / Edwin Westley
Health & Human Services / Kevin Forrestal
Historical Preservation & Landmarking / Paul Graziano
Legislation / Paul Kerzner
Newsletter / David Kulick
Nominations/ Helene Zaro
Parks & Cultural Affairs / Barbara Larkin & Kim Ohanian
Planning & Land Use / Patricia Dolan
Public Safety / Nagassar Ramgarib
Tenants & Affordable Housing / Florence Fisher
Transportation / Jim Trent & Kathy Masi
Zoning & Code Enforcement / Joseph Amoroso & Harbachan Singh

Queens Civic Congress Membership

Addisleigh Park Civic Organization ♦ Association of Old Forest Hills ♦ Auburndale Improvement Association
♦ Bayside Civic Database ♦ Bayside Clear-Spring Council ♦ Bayside Hills Civic Association ♦ Bayswater Civic
Association ♦ Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Inc. ♦ Bay Terrace Cooperative Section 1 ♦ Bellaire-BellVill Civic
Association ♦ Belle Harbor Property Owners Association ♦ Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association ♦ Bellerose
Hillside Civic Association ♦ Bell Park Manor Terrace Community Council ♦ Bowne Park Civic Association ♦
Briarwood Community Association ♦ Broadway-Flushing Homowners Association ♦ Cambria Heights Civic
Association ♦ Civic Association of Utopia Estates ♦ C.O.M.E.T. (Communities of Maspeth-Elmhurst Together) ♦
Concerned Citizens of Laurelton ♦ Cornucopia Society ♦ Creedmoor Civic Association ♦ Deerfield Area
Association ♦ Doug-Bay Manor Civic Association ♦ Douglas Manor Association ♦ Douglaston Civic Association ♦
Dutch Kills Civic Association of Long Island City ♦ East Elmhurst Corona Civic Association ♦ East Flushing Civic
Association ♦ Federated Block Associations of Laurelton ♦ Federation of Civic Associations of Southeast Queens
♦ Floral Park Community Council ♦ Flushing Heights Civic Association ♦ Flushing on the Hill Taxpayers
Association ♦ Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce ♦ Forest Hills Crescents Association ♦ Forest Hills-Van Court
Association ♦ Fresh Meadows Homeowners Association ♦ Georgetown Mews ♦ Glendale Civic Association of
Queens ♦ Glen Oaks Village Owners, Inc. ♦ Greater Astoria Historical Society ♦ Greater Whitestone Taxpayers
Civic Association ♦ Harding Heights Civic Association ♦ Hillcrest Estates Civic Association ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op
#1 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #2 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #3 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #4 ♦ Hollis 11423 Block
Association ♦ Hollis Hills Civic Association ♦ Holliswood Civic Association ♦ Hollis Park Gardens Association ♦
Holly Civic Association ♦ Hyde Park Gardens Cooperative ♦ Jackson Heights Beautification Group ♦ Jamaica
Estates Association ♦ Jamaica Hill Community Association ♦ Juniper Park Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Civic
Association ♦ Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Association ♦ Kew Gardens Improvement Association ♦ Kissena
Park Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Bay Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Pines ♦ Long Island City Alliance ♦
Malba Civic Association ♦ Meadowlark Gardens Owners ♦ Middle Village Property Owners Association ♦ Mitchell
Linden Civic Association ♦ Neponsit Property Owners Association ♦ Newtown Civic Association ♦ Newtown
Historical Society ♦ North Bellerose Civic Association ♦ North Flushing Civic Association ♦ North Hills Estates
Civic Association ♦ Northwest Clearview Homeowners Association ♦ Norwood Neighborhood Association ♦
Oakland Terrace/ Gardens Community Council ♦ Off Broadway Homeowners Association ♦ Our Neighborhood
Improvement Association ♦ Our Neighbors Civic Association of Ozone Park, Inc. ♦ Parkway Village Historical
Society ♦ Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association ♦ Queens Colony Civic Association ♦ Queens Community
Civic Corp. ♦ Queens Village Civic Association ♦ Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Association ♦ Richmond Hill
Historical Society ♦ Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association ♦ Rockaway Park Homeowners/Residents
♦ Rocky Hill Civic Association ♦ Rosedale Civic Association ♦ Royal Ranch Association ♦ Southeast Queens
Concerned Neighbors ♦ South Ozone Park West Association Civic ♦ Springfield/Rosedale Community Action
Association ♦ Station Road Civic Assoc. of Auburndale ♦ Sunnyside Gardens/Harrison Place Homeowners
♦ Surrey Estates Civic Association ♦ Union Turnpike Merchants Association ♦ United Forties Civic Association ♦
United Mutual Veterans Housing, Inc. ♦ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ♦ Wayanda Civic Association ♦
West Cunningham Park Civic Association ♦ Westmoreland Association ♦ Woodside Community Council