

Before Queens Civic Congress received this we got word of another apparent attack on the integrity of our Community Boards. Queens – and New York City – residents need to watch carefully for any attempts to diminish the roles of these community resources.

Press Release (For Immediate release)

The New York City Corporation Counsel reversed itself this afternoon, following a threat of protests at Bronx Community Board #10 by residents in the Westchester Square section of the Bronx.

Earlier in the day at a hearing in Bronx County Supreme Court, the Corporation Counsel refused to make CB10 manager Kenneth Kearns available for testimony in the case of Westchester Square v. Hess, a proceeding that challenges the Department of Homeless Services policy of homeless shelter placement without community board notification. Judge Geoffrey Wright declined to rule on that issue, but recommended that attorneys for Petitioners seek community board documents through another board member.

Later in the day, attorneys and a board member were seen leaving the community board office with a box full of documents. At about the same time, residents of the affected community were granted a permit to hold protest marches outside of the Board office from 1:00pm to 3:00pm each day.

When advised of the protests by police, Corporation Counsel reversed its previous decision and agreed to submit to the subpoena and the interviewing of Kearns by counsel.

For further information, please contact:

Stephen B. Kaufman, Esq. at 212-349-2000 or

Robert Swetnick, Esq. at 212-349-2800