

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

For the past three years our neighborhoods in Queens, as well as other parts of New York City and beyond, have been under continuous threat from City and State-sponsored land use proposals with innocuous-sounding names such as **Planning Together** and the **Housing Compact**.

Our communities in Queens, as well as those in Staten Island, Brooklyn, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties as well as cities, towns and villages in upstate New York have banded together and united to speak with a single voice – successfully so far – to stop these proposals from being adopted, including the elimination of one-family zoning; the introduction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs); Transit-Oriented Development (TODs); and other radical changes to land use that will negatively impact Queens.

However, we currently face an *extinction-level* event from Mayor Adam's **City of Yes** set of zoning proposals. The details of this plan are truly frightening and make the previous recent proposals from Governor Hochul look simple in comparison. Should any of these proposals be adopted, the damage to our communities will be catastrophic; if it is approved wholesale, our neighborhoods will simply cease to exist. To us, the **City of Yes** has created a "do or die" situation that must be responded to immediately – and we are still anticipating Governor Hochul to introduce similar legislation in January, creating a parallel threat at the State level.

As such, the Queens Civic Congress has taken decisive action and formally retained our longtime friend Paul Graziano, an urban planner whose expertise in land use and zoning has been critical in these recent fights to protect our neighborhoods. Paul was also instrumental in designing and fighting for the contextual zonings that many of our communities achieved in the early 2000s – the very zoning that Mayor Adams now wants to get rid of to attain his goals of high-density development in every neighborhood across the city.

As a non-profit organization, in order to cover the costs associated with hiring a land use expert as well as other actions that we believe we will have to take if we are to win this battle, the Queens Civic Congress is reaching out to our member associations as well as other allied organizations to help fund this endeavor. Our initial ask is for \$1,000 from each association; in addition, individual contributions are always welcome.

We will be giving continuous updates and information as this process plays out. In addition, any association that wants Paul to speak directly with members or has other questions can contact him at [paulgraziano2013@gmail.com](mailto:paulgraziano2013@gmail.com) or (718) 309-7522.

Thank you,

Warren Schreiber, President  
Queens Civic Congress