

**QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS  
VIRTUAL GENERAL MEETING  
January 21, 2025**

**Officers Present:** Henry Euler, Richard Hellenbrecht, John McCaffrey, Ashook Ramsaran, Harbachan Singh, Warren Schreiber, Sey Schwartz, Michael Scotland, James Trent, Elaine Young.

**Elected Officials & Representatives:**

Representative for NYS State Sen. Roxanne Persaud

Representative for US Congress Member Grace Meng

Shantuse Keller, Representative for NYS Sen. Leroy Comrie

Alexis Winters, Representative for NYC Council Member Vicky Paladino

Scott Seiber, Representative for NYS Sen. John Liu

**Others present:** Tatiana A, Maria Becce, Ann Brown, Angelo Castellano, Aracella Cook, Margaret Foley, Bob Friedrich, Ed Goydas, Paul Graziano, Johnny Hines Jr, Mohammad Ishmael, Izzy, Rhonda Kontner, Matthew Mandell, Sandra Mandell, Arnold McKinley, Sandy Miller, Tunisha Walker-Miller, Jennifer (NCA), Karen Odaira, Pesach Osina, Giovanna Reid, Sherry Reisner, Kathy Rufus, William Scarborough, Chris Scherer, Arlene Schlessenger, Bobby Sher, Claudia Valentino, Christine Wilkerson.

**Report by Treasurer Jim Trent**

QCC Bank Account: \$44,986.36, QCC Foundation \$16,214.97, \$12,000. for Go Fund Me. Paid memberships: 65 for 2023, 55 for 2024.

**QCC and the litigation opposing the City of Yes**

President Schreiber pointed out that opposition to the Mayor's City of Yes plan was ongoing, with an attorney having been hired with a retainer.

Schreiber now introduced the question of approval for his signing on as plaintiffs in the litigation process on behalf QCC. A long discussion followed with questions about what QCC's legal and financial obligations would be should we join in the litigation. It was pointed out that under Article 78 of the City Charter we have the right to sue the City of New York. In particular, comments focused on the probability that extended legal action would require attorney funding substantially beyond the initial retaining fee.

Ashook Ramsaran introduced a motion for President Schreiber to sign on behalf of QCC to join in the litigation, seconded by Richard Hellenbrecht. The motion was carried with one abstention.

**Presentation: Forest Hills Stadium** by Matthew and Sandra Mandell (C0-District Leaders)

The number of concerts and events in the stadium have increased exponentially over time and the sound levels are disruptive and unbearable within the homes of the Gardens and beyond. It is an issue that reflects the unrestrained commercial interests versus that of the Gardens homeowners.

The sound levels literally pound the walls of the nearby homes, and despite the lack of parking facilities and limited public transportation, with the increasing numbers of events and audiences, the homeowners suffer the unrestrained noise into the late nights beyond the unbearable.

Efforts to modify and control the excesses to date, including the Gardens residents appeals to the City to stop the activities have not received any positive responses to date. Meanwhile, the homeowners have filed for an injunction in the lower courts. The Mandells concluded by asking that any support the QCC would provide would be helpful.

A motion was introduced by Bob Friedrich to craft a QCC letter addressed to city officials urging the reduction in the number of scheduled concerts. It was seconded by Arlene Schessenger, and was approved with no abstentions.

On a motion to adjourn, the meeting was closed at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by  
Seymour Schwartz  
January 27, 2025

### **ADDENDUM**

At the close of the meeting, Ashook Ramsaran, QCC Executive Vice President and Chair of the Communications and Media Committee, provided the following report:

*Members of the Committee are* Ashook Ramsaran, Sherry Reisner, Rene Hill, Michael Scotland, Richard Hellenbrecht, Jim Trent, Sey Schwartz, Henry Euler, Phillip Borkowski

Planned activities in 2025

- Website: Upgrade, organization and postings
- Additional Outreach: Social Media
- Awards: Criteria, recipients/year
- Revise QCC on-line Brochure
- Revise Email lists: Members, elected officials, agencies, organizations, media
- Issuing timely notices and Press Statements
- Standardize Invitations to QCC events
- Revise QCC logo: "Founded 1997" at bottom to read left to right.
- On-line payment for membership, events, contributions, etc.
- QCC Membership form: On-line completion and payment

No action was taken.

**END**