

**QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS  
GENERAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

**Officers present:** Richard Hellenbrecht, Renee Hill, Barbara Larkin, John McCaffrey, Warren Schreiber, Sey Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Jim Trent, Elaine Young

**Legislators Representatives present:**

Kashy Thomas for Assemblyman Ed Braunstein  
Shiang for State Senator John Liu  
Amanda Vazque for Council Member Lee

**Others present,** including , Tomi A, Angela Castellano, Aracella Cook, Margaret Foley, Eileen Greenberg, Edward Goodas, Ed Goy, Henry's iPad, Holliswood Civic, Evelyn Li, Jennifer NCA, Johnny Hines, Jr., Karen Odaira, Michael O'Keiffe, Carol Marian, Palain, Pdinda, Bill Perkins, Sherry Reisner, William Scarborough, Michelle Scheifer, Arlene Schlessinger, Bobby Sher, Claudia Valentino, Ed Westley.

**Meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. by President Warren Schreiber**

Warren spoke of the importance of insuring support for attendance at our Legislators Reception. There will be citations and proclamations from legislators along with the Pat Dolan and Kevin Forrestal awards to the three nominees for their community and civic contributions. He reported that a Communications and Media Committee has been established.

**Report by Treasurer Jim Trent**

Funds in the QCC account: \$3,472.18, with \$12,066.05 in the QCC Foundation account. Last year's Reception event cost \$1,920. To date, we received 32 paid Reception reservations. It is in line with prior years to this date. The paid attendance last year was 101.

Paid membership dues to date this year is 45, and was 62 last year. There are seven paid memberships for 2025.

**Report by Executive Secretary Ashook Ramsaran**

Ashook reported that the November QCC newsletter is planned to be issued on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. He requests that bio information for the awardees be forwarded to him. Legislative Reception letters of invitation will be issued to selected legislators.

**"City of Yes" Going before the City Council on December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Paul Graziano reported that some of the other boroughs, South Brooklyn and Staten Island, are working together with QCC, widening our outreach. There are now 200 organizations working together in opposition to the plan. The Mayor is not negotiating, nor in discussion with the City Council. Many of the Council members are not fully informed of the issue and the proposals being considered for modifications. Paul described the issued environmental impact study to be "a piece of junk", an arbitrary position that does not show its impact on the communities. A general discussion followed, with some reports of active civic events and community opposition to the plan.

**Congestion Pricing to be in effect on January 5<sup>th</sup>**

The plan is overwhelmingly condemned by New Yorkers. It is a ploy to raise money. It is already made known that the reduced \$9. price will be discarded in three years, with further price increases up to \$15. or more planned to be put in place by 2031. General discussion followed with no further action.

**With no further business, the meeting was concluded at 9:05 p.m.**

Prepared by Seymour Schwartz  
November 22, 2024