



For Immediate Release: Wednesday, November 16, 2011
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Queens Chamber-advocated Queens Convention Center included in NYC Regional Economic Development Council Plan

“The New York City Regional Economic Development Council confirms what the Queens Chamber of Commerce has advocated for over a decade,” stated its Executive Director, Jack Friedman, who [testified](#) last month in support of the convention center at the Regional Council's Queens meeting. “Queens offers the city’s most appropriate location for a new international convention and exhibition center, with accompanying hotel accommodations.”

“An International Convention & Exhibition Center will add an important new destination for the city’s tourism industry,” stated Chamber Past-President and current board member Raymond Irrera who oversaw a study touting the benefits of a Queens Convention Center during his chamber leadership.

“New York City attracts over 50 million tourists annually and generates over \$31 billion visitor spending dollars,” added Friedman. “A Queens Convention Center will transform tourism for Queens and further support New York City's status as the tourism capital of the World.”

The Queens Chamber plans to vigorously pursue private investment so this convention and exhibition center could begin construction within 24 months of public approvals, and be developed in phases, potentially with completion of the entire project by 2018.

The Queens Chamber thanks the NYC Regional Council's members for their support and inclusion of this transformative project within their strategic plan.

[Read](#) the news release:

http://esd.ny.gov/PressCenter/Data/2011/111511_NYCRGUNveilsPlans.pdf

[View](#) NYC Strategic Plan:

<http://nyworks.ny.gov/themes/nyopenrc/rc-files/nyc/REDECFINALNYC.pdf>

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[Editor's note: Queens Chamber of Commerce President Carol [Conslato](#) serves on the council.]

About the Chamber: Currently celebrating its [Centennial](#), the Queens Chamber of Commerce represents thousands of businesses and firms of all sizes that do business from and/ or in our vibrant borough. On behalf of its 1,200 members, collectively employing 500,000 residents of Queens County, the Chamber through its programs and advocacy, works to promote the general welfare of the Borough of Queens and to foster its commerce.