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## **Governor Delivers for Queens – Chamber praises Queens Convention Center plan**

“This is a great day for the people of Queens County and the Queens Chamber of Commerce” said Jack Friedman, Executive Director. “For almost a decade, the Queens Chamber of Commerce advocated a first-class Convention Center – built in Queens.” Yesterday, in Governor Andrew Cuomo’s 2012 State of the State Address, he announced the plan to build the country’s largest convention and exhibition center at Aqueduct Racetrack. Carol Conslato, the Chamber’s President who attended the speech added, “The Governor’s plan to build a 3.8 million square foot facility with 3,000 new hotel rooms at Aqueduct Racetrack is a huge victory for the Borough of Queens.”

In 2005, the Queens Chamber of Commerce commissioned a Conference, Exhibition & Hotel Feasibility Study that supported the argument that Queens County was perfectly suited to host a first-Class Exhibition Center. The Chamber and the Regional Plan Association both advocated a Queens Convention center in testimony to the NYC Regional Economic Development Council earlier this year at York College. While our efforts focused on a regional exhibition space with a hotel located at Willets Point, the most important facet of our plan was the Exhibition Center itself. Governor Cuomo’s plan to replace the Jacob Javits Convention Center at the Aqueduct Racetrack has exceeded our expectations. We also maintain that a smaller regional center at Willets Point should continue to be pursued and that these two concepts are not mutually exclusive.

Ms. Conslato, who had been appointed to the New York City Regional Economic Development Council, included in their recent proposal that a World-class convention and exhibition center in Queens be included as part of their strategic plan. The Queens Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically supported the inclusion of this project in the Council’s report. Today, after receiving the support of the Governor and multiple endorsements from State and City leaders including Mayor Bloomberg, the Queens Chamber of Commerce will continue to play a leading role to ensure that this vision becomes a reality. The Queens Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically endorses the Governor and New York City Regional Economic Development Council's plan to create the Country’s largest convention and exhibition space at Aqueduct Racetrack.