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QUEENS COMMUNITY BOARD 13 LAND USE SUB-COMMITTEE ON CREEDMOOR MEETS TO OPPOSE DENSITY OF “CREEDMOOR COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN” AS PROPOSED

At its first meeting last night, this group of 22 community board members and community leaders representing neighborhoods from the surrounding area to the extreme south of the board catchment area, also reflecting the ethnic diversity of the board, all spoke and agreed in their opposition to the Creedmoor Master Plan.

All were transplants from more densely parts of New York City – Brooklyn, the Bronx, Harlem, Western Queens; or as immigrants from Jamaica, W.I., Trinidad, Guyana, looking for a place to settle who had moved first to another borough and decided on Eastern and Southeast Queens as their permanent “home.”

All members spoke about the appeal of owning a house with a front and backyard, tree-lined streets, knowing your neighbors and the feeling of safety in a place to raise a family. Neighbors all looked out for each other. These neighborhoods had good schools and the feeling of living in the suburbs. Each member spoke about escaping a place that was crowded and densely populated. Moving to Bellerose or Laurelton, Glen Oaks or Rosedale, Springfield Gardens or Queens Village, Cambria Heights or Floral Park was the fulfillment of their particular “American Dream,” as one member spoke of working two jobs for many years just to be able to afford to buy in his community.

Moving into these neighborhoods was “intentional” specifically for the “lifestyle” it provided for them and their families. All were quite clear they did not want to live in a densely populated area and did whatever they could to maintain this lifestyle by getting involved in their civic associations while always being present at community meetings and working with their local elected officials.

Board Chair Bryan Block created this sub-committee as there was a need to put out messaging that reflected the multi-cultural opposition to what one member stated - "... density can kill the character of neighborhoods."

The Committee Chair, Corey Bearak, had each member speak to both tell their individual story and express their main concerns. While the discussion got animated at times, the committee acknowledged that something was going to be built on the Creedmoor Campus, and 1,000 units was a more appropriate number that would mesh in the community without vastly changing it. The other major concern was the impact on existing infrastructure as no plan for major capital projects are in the works.

The Committee Members:

Bryan Block, QCB13 Chair, Cambria Heights

Corey Bearak, Esq., QCB13 Land Use Sub-Committee on Creedmoor Chair, President, North Bellerose Civic Association, Bellerose

Angela Augugliaro, QCB13 Board Member, Bellerose

Bess DeBetham, QCB13 Board Member, Laurelton

Donald Clarke, Esq., Federated Blocks of Laurelton Civic Association

Charles Farrugia, QCB13 Board Member, Floral Park

Bob Friedrich, President, Glen Oaks Village, Glen Oaks

Robert Glover, QCB13 Public Safety Committee Co-Chair, Laurelton

Richard Hellenbrecht, QCB13 First Vice Chair, Bellerose

Fay Hill, QCB13 Parks & Environment Committee Chair, Springfield Gardens

Mohamood Ishmael, QCB13 Treasurer, Queens Village

Rhonda Kontner, QCB13 Executive Secretary, Floral Park

Michael Mallia, QCB13 Land Use Committee Chair, Bellerose

Sophia Mighty, QCB13 Economic Development Committee Chair, Floral Park

Marcia O'Brien, QCB13 Second Vice Chair, Rosedale

Michael O'Keeffe, QCB13 Public Safety Committee Co-Chair, President of Creedmoor Civic Association, Bellerose

Suzanne Peritz, President, Rocky Hill Civic Association, Bellerose

Nagassar Ramgarib, QCB13 Board Member, President, Queens Village Civic Association

Bobby Sher, Board President, Bell Park Manor Terrace, Queens Village

Steven Taylor, Esq., QCB13 Land Use Committee Vice Chair, Cambria Heights

James Trent, Queens Borough Historian, Bellerose

Lourdes Villaneuva Hartrick, QCB13 Board Member, President, Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, Bellerose