



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin **Chairperson** / Joseph Marziliano **District Manager**

TO: All Board Members

FROM: Michael Budabin, Chair

DATE: January 18, 2021

**RE: Planning Ahead Report and initiative
By NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson**

On Friday, January 15, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. the CB11 Executive Committee met via Zoom teleconference to discuss the above-referenced initiative put forth by Speaker Corey Johnson.

Present was Michael Budabin, Chair, Christine Haider, 1st Vice Chair, Victor Dadras, 2nd Vice Chair, Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair, Paul DiBenedetto, Board Member, and Joseph Marziliano, District Manager. Also present was Paul Graziano, Urban Planning/Historic Preservation Consultant

This meeting was called in response to Mr. Graziano contacting Mr. DiBenedetto regarding a plan put forth by NYC Council Speaker Johnson, ***Planning Ahead***. Mr. DiBenedetto suggested that Mr. Budabin invite Mr. Graziano to present to the Executive Committee on this issue. Mr. Budabin called the meeting to order and Mr. Graziano went through a presentation of what the plan seeks to achieve, primarily it intends to simplify many of New York City's zoning, capital improvement, and zoning processes. Mr. Graziano stated that, to that general aim, it plans to take the specific measure of eliminating single-family zoning in the City, amongst other matters. Elimination of single-family zoning is predicated on the supposition that most rezonings during the mid-2000's compounded density inequality with a racial bias. Mr. Graziano expressed that he takes exception to that conclusion, having been involved on nearly half of those rezonings during that period of time. In addition, he presented a series of slides illustrating the fact that many of the neighborhoods rezoned were either majority neighborhoods of color or diverse. In conclusion, Mr. Graziano stated that this plan would seem to shift a burden onto middle class families across the racial spectrum to the advantage of newly empowered developers.

The committee thanked Mr. Graziano for his presentation, which he is taking to as many Community Boards as possible. Mr. DiBenedetto suggested that CB 11 move to take action on this issue as soon as possible. Mr. Budabin asserted to add this item to the February 1, 2021 meeting agenda, and send out the ***Planning Ahead*** document and Mr. Graziano's work with this committee report. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.