

March 3, 2008

Hon. Members of the New York City Council:

Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Queens Chamber of Commerce about affordable broadband in Queens. This is the third time I am testifying about this and other technology related issues. I testified at your first hearing at Queens Borough Hall on the need for increased broadband access. I also testified at your more recent hearing on the status of the New York City Technology Sector.

Every year the Queens Chamber Legislative platform includes the following:

- Provide increased broadband access to underserved New York City areas.

If New York City is to compete in a global market it is essential that we improve access for underserved segments of the New York city population. While New York City health institutions are on the cutting edge of technology it is sad that segments of the population, notably seniors, cannot take advantage of state of the art monitoring equipment for lack of adequate broadband access. It is equally frightening to think about how lack of broadband access might hamper homeland security monitoring efforts.

Councilwoman Brewer sponsored a seminar titled, The Digital Divide. It is a most apt description of the shortfall in broadband access. Local Law 126 established an advisory committee on broadband access. It is time to conclude study and take action.

Respectfully submitted,

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