



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247

May 16, 2006

SERPHIN R. MALTESE
SENATOR, QUEENS COUNTY

CHAIRMAN
CITIES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEES
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS

CODES

FINANCE

HIGHER EDUCATION

JUDICIARY

RULES

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

ROOM 413

CAPITOL

ALBANY, NY 12247

(518) 455-3281

FAX (518) 426-6951

71-04 MYRTLE AVENUE

GLENDALE, NY 11385

(718) 497-1800

157-02 CROSS BAY BOULEVARD

HOWARD BEACH, NY 11414

TTY USERS (718) 738-1456

(718) 738-0049

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

MALTESE@SENATE.STATE.NY.US

WEBSITE:

WWW.SENATORSERFMALTESE.COM

Amanda Burden, Director
Department of City Planning
22 Reade Street
New York, New York 10007-1216

Dear Ms. Burden:

I am writing to oppose the zoning change for the St. Saviour's Church property located at 57-40 58th Street in Maspeth, Queens. It is my understanding that there has been a request to have the zoning changed from the present MI-D to R5B.

This property is adjacent to a heavily traveled truck route along Rust Street, with all of the accompanying pollution, noise and truck vibrations that that entails. The property currently acts as a green space buffer between the residential district of Maspeth and the old manufacturing area. Not only would a change to residential zoning be inappropriate, it would take away that buffer. Furthermore, adding more residential units would place an even greater burden on existing residential and commercial parking and area roadways and city services.

Furthermore, the church on the site, St. Saviour's, is perhaps the final surviving example of Architect Richard Upjohn's country Gothic church style. Landmark status for the church is being sought.

The surrounding residents, community and civic associations and my fellow elected officials are all opposed to any rezoning of this property. It is our common belief that this property would be better used as a museum and park.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about this issue and thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

SERPHIN R. MALTESE
Senator, Queens County

SRM:vv