



MEMORANDUM

TO: Assemblyman Lancman, et al

FROM: Queens Botanical Garden

DATE: 01 March 2008

RE: Non-Profit Homeland Security Preparedness Act

We are writing to express our strong support of the Non-Profit Homeland Security Preparedness Act currently being presented to the Legislature by Assemblyman Rory Lancman and State Senator Dean Skelos.

New York State is home to numerous non-profit cultural institutions that serve the needs of millions of New Yorkers and visitors to New York. New York is a prime terrorist target; non-profits here are especially vulnerable. The arts and cultural institutions of Queens provide positive outlets and venues for individual and social expression to the most culturally diverse population in the United States. The Queens Botanical Garden (QBG) feels that funds need to be made available to us to keep our constituents feeling safe and secure.

QBG addresses the need for its diverse visitors to have a place to come and enjoy the peace and serenity of nature. Too many of our financial resources must be spent to enhance our security in order to make our community feel safe when they visit. The funds provided by the afore mentioned bill will ease the burden of security from the shoulders of these various non-profit institutions, thus freeing them to continue to use their funds to better serve their communities.