



**E-Mail: info@theparkwatchdog.org | website: www.flushingremonstrance.org
Founder: David Oats | Chairwoman: Corinne Oats | President: Greg Godfrey**

For:

The Honorable Governor David A. Paterson
The State of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
United States of America

June 23rd, 2008

Dear Governor Paterson:

Freedom is about to be arrested and thrown back into prison, and we need your help to rescue it.

The Flushing Remonstrance, the precursor to the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights of the United States of America, was drafted in the fields of Flushing over 350 years ago.

It is now on display in the Queens Museum of Art until the end of June thanks to the efforts of our organization, The Flushing Meadows – Corona Park World's Fair Association and others who care deeply about this document.

But after that it will likely return to its prison to lay static, restrained, covered up, and very far away in a deep basement library from the citizens who live its dreams. It will likely return to the New York State Archives instead of remaining on display in the land where it was written.

This document calls for religious freedom and its message means and shows the world that in the borough served by the "International Express," the No. 7 line which flies over the neighborhoods representing the most diverse cultures from every part of this fragile earth, that we can all just get along... and thrive.

This is a symbol of humanity and is a written record of it – The Flushing Remonstrance was written in the same area where hundreds of years later the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would be proclaimed. The Flushing Remonstrance is the very foundation for these, the highest of human ideals and values.

With all this in context, and all the strife around the world, we want you to know that we want to live among this document which represents the international values of freedom, hope, peace, and successful human coexistence.

The Flushing Remonstrance belongs on permanent loan in the fields where it was drafted and signed.

The Flushing Remonstrance returned for a brief stay on its 350th anniversary at the Queens Library of Flushing and will be on view at the Queens Museum of Art until the end of June, where when renovations are completed in a few years, we believe that The Flushing Remonstrance should remain on permanent loan to be viewed by millions.

Honorable Governor, we request your support and efforts to see to it that you continue to sustain the efforts of keeping this document of freedom on view for generations to come by seeing to it that The Flushing Remonstrance is returned to its citizens on permanent loan from the New York State Archives when the Queens Museum of Art finishes its renovations.

There is no better place to protect this cherished document than at what is today the Queens Museum of Art, a building which served twice as a pavilion at two international World's Fairs over four years, and which served as the United Nations from 1946 through 1950.

Honorable Governor, let the citizens of the United States of America, and the millions of visitors who come every year to New York City, bear witness to the fact that freedom and the quest to be liberated in these lands is at least 350 years old.

Support our goal to have this document permanently placed on display at the Queens Museum of Art when the building's renovations are complete.

To that end, we are launching an on-line petition on our website, <http://www.flushingremonstrance.org>, where we will forward you the electronic signatures of the citizens who feel strongly about keeping this document in the land where it belongs.

Honorable Governor, we look forward to your leadership in this matter.

Sincerely,



Greg Godfrey
President
The Flushing Meadows - Corona Park World's Fair Association



Corinne Oats
Chairwoman