



District Office
8703 3rd Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209
718-748-5200

The Council
of
The City of New York

City Hall Office
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007
212-788-7363

Vincent J. Gentile
Council Member
43rd District – Brooklyn

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CONTACT: Dena Libner
Call: 718-748-5200
212-788-7363

***Councilman Vincent Gentile Calls for City Oversight of
Cell Antenna Emissions
Bill Introduced Today to Require Testing of Antennas***

CITY HALL—Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Brooklyn) introduced a bill that would provide oversight of radiation emitted from cell antennas throughout the New York City – something that the Federal Government regulates, but does not enforce.

“Almost 2,600 new antennas were put up in the city since 2005, and we know that their emissions can be harmful,” Councilman Gentile said. “So why aren’t we making sure that antennas placed next to families’ homes, children’s schools and public playgrounds follow FCC guidelines? It’s a huge gap in protecting public health and safety, and this legislation is going to try to close that gap.”

Int. 1087 would require the Department of Buildings to:

- Create a report on the radiofrequency radiation emitted by each of the City’s cellular antennas and related equipment every six months;
- When and if emissions from that equipment are found to exceed regulations, notify the Council Member and Community Board in whose district the equipment is located;
- Notify the overseeing Federal agency – in most cases, the FCC – of the structure’s noncompliance.

At a press conference held before bill’s Wednesday, Sept. 30 introduction, Councilman Gentile was joined by colleagues and advocates of cell antenna regulation in support of the bill.

“The federal government has abdicated its responsibility to protect us from potentially harmful radiation so we are forced to mandate that the city do this necessary testing to ensure our homes and schools aren’t at risk,” Councilman Peter F. Vallone Jr. (D-Queens) said.

"This legislation gets a hold on an issue that has eluded us for too long. As cell phone antennas pop up on every other rooftop in our communities, we need to make sure we have proper oversight," Councilman James Vacca (D-Bronx) said. "This bill would make sure cell phone companies are doing what they say they'll do."

"This is a very timely bill – we cannot wait for an epidemic to break out due to radiation to protect the citizens of New York City, and this bill does protect them," Councilman Charles Barron (D-Manhattan) said. "We also must review FCC emissions standards in case they're too high – those standards may be harmful in and of themselves. There should be lower emission levels in place to begin with."