



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2009

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

Councilman Gentile Introduces Bill to Promote Firefighter Safety

CITY HALL—Councilman Vincent Gentile introduced a bill, which was passed by the New York City Council today, closing a dangerous gap in the safety of tall buildings and those in the process of being demolished so that New York City’s Bravest can fight fires more safely than before.

The piece of legislation introduced by Councilman Gentile, Intro 986-A, was introduced as part of a set of 11 other bills to address safety issues that led to the deaths of firefighters Joey Graffagnino Jr. and Robert Bedia in the August 18, 2007 Deutsche Bank fire in Manhattan.

Councilman Gentile is a sponsor of the other 11 bills, but introduced 986-A himself. 986-A requires than standpipes – similar to an indoor fire hydrant put in place for firefighters to access high-pressure water when fighting blazes – undergo a type of testing to ensure that there are no manufacturing flaws and that they will function correctly in the event of a fire.

The malfunction of the standpipes in the Deutsche Bank building required firefighters to bring lengths of hose from the streets to the highest floors of the burning building. This delay contributed to the deaths of Joey Graffagnino Jr. and Robert Bedia.

Before the passage of 986-A at the Council’s September 17, 2009 Stated meeting, Councilman Gentile voiced his support of this and the other 11 bills in the package designed to make firefighters’ jobs as safe as possible.

“While this set of bills comes too late to prevent the deaths of Bobby and Joey or to prevent the loss that resonates with their families and neighborhoods to this day, they all represent necessary precautions that will make this a safer place for New York City’s Bravest to work in years and decades to come,” Councilman Gentile said.

For the text of 986-A, visit:

<http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=452601&GUID=03316BEA-D988-4533-8BF6-FFDD46B4E3C9&Options=ID|Text|&Search=986-A>.