

# in case you missed it . . .

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS

Week of August 18, 2008

## this week at the council

### Speaker Quinn and Council Members Rally with Tenants

Tenants Protest Landlord Lobby; Council Speaker Christine Quinn, together with Council Members Melissa Mark-Viverito and Letitia James, joined tenants and housing advocates at a rally on the [steps of City Hall](#) Wednesday to speak out against "an unwarranted lawsuit brought on by the landlord lobby aimed at overturning the Tenant Protection Act." First mentioned in Quinn's 2007 State of the City Address, Local Law No. 7 of 2008 created a new umbrella of protection for tenants who are being harassed by their landlords. [El Diario editorialized about the rally.](#)

### Council Members Demand More Protection for NYC Seniors

Elected officials — including the president of Brooklyn, Marty Markowitz, and three City Council members — demanded more protection for seniors yesterday in response to a recent chain of assaults on the elderly. [The NY Sun](#) reports that 12 robberies in Brooklyn over this past summer involved people between the ages of 54 and 85.

### Two Councilmen Launch Website, Strive for Cheaper MTA Fares

Councilman Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) and Councilman John Liu (D-Flushing), announced Tuesday the launch of a Web site designed to give a voice to city straphangers furious over a planned MTA fare hike. Councilman Addabbo created the site, [fightthehike08.com](#), to provide a public counterweight to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's proposal to once again raise subway fares. Councilman Lui was quoted in the [NY Daily News](#) article as saying the MTA "has pled poverty" many times before when the authority has actually ended the year with significant surpluses.

### Gentile Applauds Construction Safety Laws

Councilman Vincent Gentile of Brooklyn co-sponsored the construction safety bills - Int 783-A and Int 790-A - which were passed unanimously at the City Council meeting last week. While Int 755-A, which amended the qualifications required to be held by the commissioner and deputy commissioner of the Department of Buildings (DOB), was more contentious than the other bills, [it was far from the bill most likely to ensure safe construction](#) sites and conditions in the city throughout the future.



THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
CHRISTINE C. QUINN, SPEAKER