

# in case you missed it . . .

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS**

Week of November 10, 2008

## this week at the council

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### **Council Passes Willets Point Bill**

The City Council yesterday gave a thumbs-up to a pair of Mayor Bloomberg's pet projects intended to transform Queens industrial areas into [sparkling new communities](#) with more than 10,000 apartments. Plans to transform the 62-acre Willets Point industrial area by Citi Field and the 30-acre Hunters Point South district in Long Island City into multi-use areas received council approval in a 42-2 vote.

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### **Council Members and Seniors gather to Save Community Senior Centers**

Council Speaker Christine Quinn Thursday strongly urged Mayor Bloomberg to throw his controversial [restructuring plan for senior centers](#) "into the garbage pail." The city's Department for the Aging is now picking vendors to run [329 senior centers](#) throughout the city and revamp them into "health and wellness" centers. A short while later, Ms. Quinn held a press conference during which she warned that the Council might sue to block the mayor from withholding \$400 tax rebate checks for homeowners, saying bluntly, "We're right and they're not."

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### **Members Tell Mayor "Give out the Rebate Checks."**

A showdown between Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council is brewing, with the mayor planning to rescind [the \\$400 homeowner property tax rebate](#) without the council's approval - setting the stage for a battle in the courts. Council members insist the mayor needs their approval to yank the popular rebates. "A local law would be required to eliminate the rebate, so the council would have to amend the local law, enacting legislation," said Jamie McShane, spokesman for Council Speaker Christine Quinn.



CHRISTINE C. QUINN, SPEAKER  
THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL