

# in case you missed it . . .

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS

Week of December 8, 2008

## this week at the council

### Council Proposes Budget Cut Alternatives

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and the New York City Council announced [nearly \\$500 million in city budget savings](#) spread out over the next 2 years. The proposed alternative cuts range from NYPD's advertising budget to eliminating lawn grass pick up by sanitation workers. Budget modifications to the Department of Education were also suggested in the proposal by slowing down the creation of new schools, reducing the number of parent coordinators and cutting back on data analysis programs.

### 1% Tax Increase to Generate \$100 Million for the City

A proposed hotel tax increase bill, proposed by Council Member Fidler, would generate up to [\\$100 million](#) for the city. The bill was introduced at Tuesday's council stated meeting. The rate would still be significantly smaller than its peak during the administration of Mayor David N. Dinkins; combined with state and other taxes, the maximum rate was 21.25 percent in 1991, in contrast to a combined rate today of 14.54 percent.

### Council Fights for New Yorkers' \$400 Rebate Check

Speaker Christine Quinn and City Council Members are still pushing for the release of the [\\$400 rebate checks](#). The Post reports, Mayor Bloomberg already said he would release the checks later this month once an agreement is reached. The checks would go to all New York home owners.

### Quieter Motor Bikes in the Streets, Council Introduces Bill

The City Council is set to pass a bill [requiring all motorcycles to sport tags](#) certifying approval by the Environmental Protection Agency. No EPA tag, you get a ticket, without the officials having to prove the bike exceeded the 80-decibel limit set by the city's noise code. "Today we go a long way toward taking the squeal out of the hogs," said Council Member Peter Vallone, chairing a final bill hearing Wednesday in the Public Safety Committee. Under the bill, expected to pass the full Council Dec. 18, a first conviction carries a maximum \$1,000 fine and temporary confiscation until the penalty is paid.

### Speaker and Council Outraged at Hate Crime in Brooklyn

In response to [Sunday morning's hate crime](#) attack against Jose Sucuzhanay and his brother in Bushwick, City Council [Speaker Christine Quinn](#) and Council Member [Diana Reyna](#) along with members of the [NYPD](#), the [Anti-Violence Project](#) and religious and community leaders, distributed flyers with information about Sunday's hate crime attack. The [flyer](#) contains a sketch of one of the four subjects and information on contacting authorities. If you have any information about the attack, please call 1-800-577-TIPS(8477).



CHRISTINE C. QUINN, SPEAKER

THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL