

# in case you missed it . . .

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS

Week of September 15, 2008

## this week at the council

### “We Planned for a Day Like Today...” Speaker Quinn Addresses Financial Crisis

Council Speaker Christine Quinn, together with Mayor Michael Bloomberg and City Comptroller Bill Thompson, held a press conference on Monday to reassure New Yorkers that despite the economic downturn facing the city and nation, New York has taken steps to prepare. As Speaker Quinn stated, "The thing that New Yorkers need to know is that [we planned for a day like today.](#)"

### City Discusses and Prepares for Rise in Senior Citizen Population

The percentage of New York City residents over the age of 65 is expected to double by 2030, and the City Council [addressed their growing needs](#) at a press conference on Monday. According to a new study released by the New York Academy of Medicine and the Department of Health and Human Services, many older residents have trouble affording basic necessities and find it difficult to access information on city services. Speaker Quinn said, "[This study] will hopefully give us guidelines to create an environment in which older people can stay active and engaged and enjoy a high quality of life."

### City Fines Contracting Companies for Crane Collapse

Three contracting companies face hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines for their role in a fatal crane collapse that killed seven people on East 51st Street last March. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a total of \$313,500 in citations to Rapetti Rigging Services Inc., Reliance Construction Group, and Joy Contractors Inc. for allegedly violating safety standards at the crane site. [The NY Sun spoke](#) with Council Member Jessica Lappin who said, "Ultimately there was a failure here to follow basic safety protocol and a heartbreaking tragedy resulted from it. These are harsh penalties and I think totally appropriate."

### Speaker Quinn, Council Members and Tenants Sue the RGB

Tenants, Council Members, community organizations and Speaker Quinn joined on the steps of City Hall to [announce a lawsuit](#) against the Rent Guidelines Board. The tenants and officials are suing the Board following its decision to add a supplemental lease renewal fee for rent-stabilized tenants who pay less than \$1,000 a month in rent. The lawsuit asserts that the fee exceeds legal rent increase amounts and that tenants are at risk of being driven out of their homes.



THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
CHRISTINE C. QUINN, SPEAKER