

in case you missed it . . .

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS

Week of September 2, 2008

this week at the council

City Council Passes Three Crane Safety Laws

On Thursday, the City Council unanimously approved three pieces of legislation to improve crane safety. The measures will strengthen inspections, require more training for operators and restrict the use of nylon slings, which may have played a factor in one of the year's major crane tragedies. More than 20 people have died in construction accidents this year, including nine in two crane collapses. [Council Speaker Christine Quinn was featured on NY 1 and stated](#), "I hope these pieces of legislation underscore that yes, we want development to happen in the city, but we are never going to compromise safety, even in the name of appropriate development."

Hearing to Focus on Effects of Upstate Drilling on Water

The City Council will hold an emergency public hearing next week to address concerns that plans for natural gas drilling in the city's upstate watershed could contaminate local drinking water. [The NY Sun reports](#) environmental groups have warned that a bill signed by Governor Paterson in July allowing for more drilling activity authorizes a technique known as "hydraulic fracturing" that they say has caused toxic chemical leaks at sites in New Mexico and Colorado.

Climber Agrees with Council to Ground Daredevils in the City

A bill that would land daredevils who climb or jump off city buildings in jail has gained an unlikely supporter: David Malone, who scaled the New York Times building in July, [told the NY Sun](#) he backs the legislation proposed by Council Member Peter Vallone Jr. The City passed this legislation by a unanimous vote on Thursday.

Councilman Pushes for GPS Systems for City School Buses

After a school bus driver was lost for hours during his morning route this week, Councilman John Liu pushed for the Education Department to start installing GPS devices in their buses. [The NY Daily News quoted the Councilman as saying](#) "The department must get rolling in getting the devices on all school buses so they at least have a clue as to where the kids are."

City Council Welcomes Kids and Parents Back to School this Week

Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council Members went to city schools and welcomed new and returning students and their parents. Speaker Quinn, along with Mayor Bloomberg, also welcomed in many new schools during their first week, including Gregorio Luperon High School in Manhattan. (Pictured below)



THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
CHRISTINE C. QUINN, SPEAKER