

**in case you missed it . . .****NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS**

Week of September 8, 2008

## this week at the council

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### **Council Questions Arbitron's New Radio Rating Tool**

The New York City Council on Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup> heard testimony from both sides on a resolution calling on the Federal Communications Commission to investigate Arbitron's portable people meter system and its potential impact on the diversity of radio. [Media Week](#) found that the minority broadcasters seeking government intervention fear lower ratings and revenue with the PPM service, claiming that Arbitron's methodology undercounts African-Americans and Hispanics.

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### **Councilman Eric Gioia Urges School Traffic Plan**

Councilman Eric Gioia is asking the city to move faster on a school traffic plan. More than 60% of city school children walk or bike to school. The hours before and after school are when they're most in danger of being hit by a car, according to Gioia's office. "With development comes traffic, and with traffic comes danger for school children," the city lawmaker told [the Daily News](#), adding that state figures showed that being struck by a car was the leading cause of hospitalization among 5- to 9-year-old children.

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### **Council Stops the Drill in Catskills, Before it Begins**

The New York City Council heard from dozens in a legislative hearing room at City Hall on Wednesday to hear testimony on gas drilling and its potential impacts on New York City's water supply. City Council members are advocating a ban of natural gas drilling in the watershed of New York's reservoirs, which includes Sullivan and Ulster counties. It's unclear how much land a watershed ban would take off the drilling map.

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### **Report Criticizes Mayor's Homeless Plan**

On the heels of fresh criticism from the Independent Budget Office, another report criticizing Mayor Bloomberg's failure to beat homelessness in the city was issued today by the Institute for Children and Poverty. In 2004, Mr. Bloomberg committed to an ambitious five-year plan to cut the number of New York's homeless by two-thirds. City Council Member Bill de Blasio of Brooklyn said Mr. Bloomberg "should re-examine his current policies, such as his virtual refusal to utilize public housing and Section 8 for housing homeless families." CM DeBlasio was quoted [by the NY Sun](#).



CHRISTINE C. QUINN, SPEAKER

THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL