



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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SPEAKER QUINN AND COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPERIENCE ROCKET BLAST INCIDENT
During trip to Israel, Council Delegation was approximately one mile from a rocket impact near the town of Sderot

Sderot, Israel – During a visit to the Israeli town of Sderot today, Speaker Christine C. Quinn and members of the New York City Council experienced a rocket blast incident approximately one mile from where they were meeting with Sderot Mayor Eli Moyal. After being escorted to a secure location within the town hall, Council Members went to view the damage to a small clinic at the site of impact in the kibbutz village of Nir-Am.

The Council delegation, composed of Speaker Quinn and Council Members Arroyo, Comrie, Garodnick, Jackson, Katz, Martinez, Seabrook, Sears, Weprin and Stewart, arrived in Israel on Sunday and is scheduled to return on Thursday. Today's incident represents just one of roughly 2,000 rockets that have struck in or near the town of Sderot since 2001.

"Today's event shows that you can't fully appreciate the situation in Israel unless you are here seeing it, experiencing it, and talking to people about it first hand," said Speaker Quinn. "Being present for this incident gave us a small taste of the attacks that Israelis face almost daily. We stand here in solidarity with the people of Nir-Am, Sderot and the people of Israel as they continue to work towards an end to this violence."

Speaker Quinn and the other Council Members departed this morning from Jerusalem on a visit to Sderot, where they toured a trauma center, a police station, and a local University. At approximately 4:10 pm, during a meeting with Mayor Eli Moyal, a siren went off alerting residents to an incoming rocket attack. Within twenty seconds, the Council Delegation was evacuated to a secure facility. When members went to the site of impact shortly thereafter, they observed that the clinic windows facing the explosion had been shattered and security personnel were already excavating the detonated rocket.

The Council Delegation's visit, sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council, is an effort to increase understanding of everyday life in Israel, and an opportunity to meet with officials and social service organizations about issues of importance to both Israelis and New Yorkers. The Delegation has met with groups operating soup kitchens and hunger initiatives, will be meeting with the Minister of Education, the Israeli Defense Force, the Deputy Chief of the US Embassy, and will tour a school for autistic children. Some of the sites they have been visiting are UJA-Federation of New York sponsored sites.

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