



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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**SPEAKER QUINN TO MARCH IN DUBLIN, IRELAND'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
- Opportunity to celebrate Irish heritage, March openly as a member of the LGBT community -**

CITY HALL – At the personal invitation of Dublin officials, Speaker Christine C. Quinn today announced she will march in Dublin's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Speaker Quinn, the first Irish American to be elected Speaker of the New York City Council will march with the Lord Mayor of Dublin Vincent Jackson, Speaker of the Lower House of the Irish Parliament Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, and members of the New York City and Dublin City Councils.

Speaker Quinn said, "St. Patrick's Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our Irish heritage. My participation in Dublin's parade is also an opportunity to march openly as a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community, something we have not been able to do in New York City. I hope my participation in the Dublin march will send a message about the importance of inclusion and I hope – and believe – that someday soon Irish LGBT New Yorkers will proudly and openly march down Fifth Avenue on St. Patrick's Day. I want to thank the leaders of the Dublin City Council and the organizers of the St. Patrick's Festival for their generous invitation to march with them."

The New York City Council delegation's visit also comes at a critical time in the Peace Process. After talks last year among all the Northern Ireland political parties to discuss a restoration of the elected assembly of Northern Ireland and to implement the Good Friday Agreement, further talks have been postponed, threatening to delay continued movement in the overall peace process. During her trip, Speaker Quinn will take the opportunity to speak out about the need to keep working toward a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

In addition to attending the Festival events, the Council delegation plans to visit Leinster House, the Lower House of the Irish Parliament, and to meet with Irish officials.

More than 1.2 million people from across the globe attend Dublin's four-day St. Patrick's Festival, which provides people of Irish and non-Irish descent the opportunity to celebrate Irish culture, history and traditions.

The City Council trip is being paid for by the Conference for American Ireland Relations.

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