

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADV

OCTOBER 2007

CLIPS

DAILY N

BROOKLYN T

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Put a cork in port

Council and pols unite in push to pack up plan for brew pub

BY ELIZABETH HAYS
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

THE CITY'S PLAN to boot the last working port in Brooklyn and turn it into a trendy brew pub and marina now appears all but dead in the water.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) and a slate of other heavy hitters yesterday threw their weight behind a bid to save the prime waterfront spot and give the port's embattled operator, American Stevedoring, a 10-year lease.

"The container port sustains an important New York City business," wrote Quinn — whose City Council would ultimately have to sign off on the proposal — in a letter to the Port Authority yesterday.

"We call upon the Port Authority to retain

ownership of Red Hook Piers 7-11 and immediately renew the current operator's port lease at the present site for a term of 10 years."

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Controller William Thompson and Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum also signed off on the letter, as did 17 other city, state and federal politicians.

"This letter shows a united front," said City Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), who has long championed the port.

Fellow port booster Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) said he was "absolutely elated there is now a consensus" and said the "Pataki-era mistakes that created instability must be quickly turned around by renewing the port's lease immediately."

"The high-profile letter comes as the city already appeared to be backing away from its controversial plan for the area, which it first floated in 2002.

This summer, a new development Corporation holding agency was considering port — though potential operator.

In the letter, the port Authority not to solicit operator.

But city and Port Authority day indicated the matter.

"We are working with the best competitive ideas for economic activity to the Authority spokesman said so took a swipe at America by adding: "If ASI was good start would be paid million in back rent it."

An ASI spokesman (ening) — but disputed back rent.

BAY News

Your Neighborhood — Your News

SEWING CREEK SOUTH HURST FIBERGLASS BEAR BRIDGE ONE ISLAND CROFTS BEACH GRAVESDAMANAHA

'Plan B' screw Gotbaum says city is failing

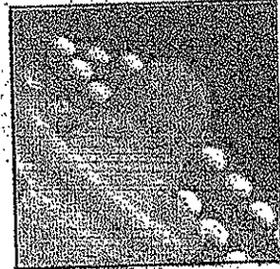
By Michèle De Meglio

The city is renegeing on its promise to provide women with emergency contraception, according to Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum.

In a new report, Gotbaum charges that the city Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) has failed to make emergency contraception, also known as the Plan B or "morning after" pill, available for same-day pickup at nearly two dozen teen health clinics. Timeliness is of the utmost importance as the pill is most effective during the first 24 hours after sexual intercourse.

The public advocate criticized the city because, in 2005, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a \$1 million campaign to provide women with better access to emergency contraception.

"Here is the reality: Emergency contraception prevents unintended pregnancies," Gotbaum said.



The city must provide women with better access to condoms and the "morning after" pill, says Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum.

"Women shouldn't be forced to scramble in the case of an emergency. We have the tools to stop unplanned pregnancies before they occur. Given that the city invested in a new outreach campaign, it is disappointing to find so few city facilities providing EC."

Gotbaum also asserted that many city health centers don't provide birth control by prescription and several teen health clinics lack female condoms.

The HHC emergency contraception is available at city-based health centers a total of 11.

In a report, Gotbaum asserts, "Public Advocate's report reveals that city health clinics do not provide basic personal care services for our adolescents when they are practicing safe sex. Child health staff cannot access to emergency contraception at those locations."

"HHC cannot prescribe emergency contraception and cannot provide it for its staff with insurance. Medicaid does not cover their prescription. Those who are unable to get emergency contraception at those locations are at risk of unintended pregnancies."

FINANCIAL TIMES

USA: (NYSE) (NYSE) (NYSE)

Companies International

tent on investor rights review

already next month. The issue has caught the
the regulator looks [by next proxy season]. The
man at Calver (the process remains the same",
he said. The issue has caught the
opier Chx, SEC. The issue has caught the
more than a way to offer
of a company's shares for
That is because a replace
mission it would be more
having an incomplete com
public comment said the
SEC will respond that with
that it was its "provision
"I'd like to think that the
Giberman Co. said

PA Gotbaum Asks for Cellular Telephones in City Schools

Dear Editor:

In recent times, we've seen gunmen walk into schools in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. And last week, an armed student managed to wound several students and teachers in Cleveland. In light of these events, the New York public school system should take every step to protect school children. Parents and administrators need to have the ability to get in touch with school children at all times and at a second's notice.

According to U.S. Cellular statistics, approximately 60 percent of teenagers own a cell phone. For many, text messaging is their preferred method of communication. If the majority of teenage students have cell phones, why aren't we using them as a tool to protect them? Why has the New York City Department of Education banned this potentially life-saving technology?

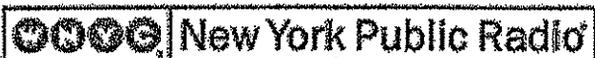
Across the nation, many school systems are already using cell phones for emergency notification. Since last April's tragic Virginia Tech shooting, high schools and colleges across the country have sent campus-wide text messages and emails to warn students of danger. Programs such as clearTXT

phones were a distraction, that students used then to send text messages, cheat on tests, surf the web, and take photos. In response to the ban, parents from across New York City immediately expressed their dismay because to them, the desire to have their children carry phones is a safety issue.

Last month's near-tragedy at St. John's University added to and validated parents' dismay. On September 28th, a student was apprehended on the University campus carrying a loaded rifle. School officials reacted quickly and ordered a campus-wide lockdown. Within a matter of minutes, they were able to inform - and protect - the 20,000 students, faculty, and personnel

Cell phones: kids are crazy about them, teachers can't stand them, Joel Klein has banned them.

COURIER
PUBLICATIONS



News

Changes to City's Sex-Ed Program

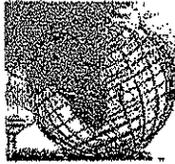
WNYC Newsroom

NEW YORK, NY October 19, 2007 —The city's middle and high schools will get a new sex education curriculum. Topics will include alcohol, tobacco and drug use, as well as nutrition and additional program for high schoolers that encourages them to delay having sex, teaches them about protection.

REPORTER: Lori Benson, director of the Office of Fitness and Health Education, says schools don't have to use the curriculum, but that it makes teaching tough subjects easier.

BENSON: There hasn't been systemic professional development, there hasn't been a system-wide purchasing of curriculum - like this summer, there was a purchasing of curriculum for schools. So this is taking an approach to really help schools have a strong foundation.

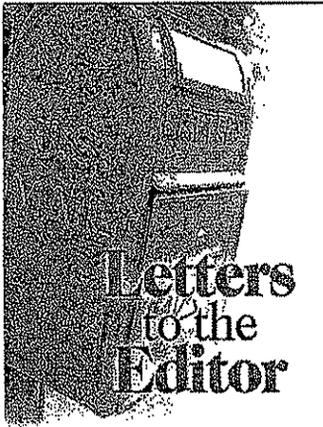
REPORTER: Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum has sent a letter to the Schools Chancellor urging him to improve sex-ed because the city's teen pregnancy rates are higher than the national average.



Gazette

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The Weekly Community Publication Dedicated To Bringing Our Readers A Vital Locally-Oriented Y



Letters to the Editor

day when my children will be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." I guess that day is not here yet and we must do what is needed to bring to justice those who wish to perpetuate these acts of hate and bigotry. We need to create an atmosphere where we can accept others with respect no matter if they are different than ourselves. I think one place to start is in the home, where we teach children that it is wrong to hate those who are different. I think once we do this maybe Martin's dream can finally become more than a dream but a living reality.
Sincerely Yours,
Frederick R. Bedell Jr.
Bellorose

Horse Died Needlessly

To The Editor:

It was most upsetting to see the picture in this Saturday's *Daily News* of Smoothie, the carriage horse, lying fatally injured on a Manhattan street, after being panicked by the sound of a snare drum being used by a break dancing group.

Why can't people realize that loud noises can and do frighten horses and other animals? You would think that com-

Op-ed

Cellphones Belong In Queer

BY BETSY GOTBAUM

In recent times, we've seen gunmen walk into schools in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. And last week, an armed student managed to wound several fellow students and teachers in Cleveland. In light of these events, the New York public school system should take every step to protect schoolchildren. Parents and administrators need to have the ability to get in touch with schoolchildren at all times and at a second's notice.

According to U.S. Cellular statistics, approximately 60 percent of teenagers own a cellphone. For many, text messaging is their preferred method of communication. If the majority of teenage students have cellphones, why aren't we using them as a tool to protect them? Why has the New York City Department of Education banned this potentially lifesaving technology?

Across the nation, many school systems are already using cellphones for emergency notification. Since last April's

there, maybe they could have calmed down those beautiful animals.

My heart goes out to the driver of Smoothie—I am sorry for your tragic loss. I am glad that the other horse was okay. God put all life on this earth for a purpose and mistreating anyone or any animal is not ever the right thing to do. People and animals have a right to live without fear of being harmed or abused in any way.

Let's start right now by banning the horse and carriage industry from the streets of New York!

John Amato
Fresh Meadows

Hails New Citizens

tragic shooting at Virginia schools and colleges across have sent campus-wide text e-mails to warn students. Programs such as clearTXT and Ed have already been implemented on campuses in Minnesota, New York. And Virginia Tech's "Alerts", was launched last July. It currently has 18,000 subscribers.

In 2005, the city Department of Education (DOE) first implemented enforcement of the cellphone claiming cellphones were a tool that students used them to serenade, cheat on tests, surf the Web, and take photos. In response to the ban from across New York City, DOE expressed their dismay because of the desire to have their children's phones is a safety issue.

Last month's near-tragedy at the University added to and validated the dismay. On September 26, a

pared several senior citizen ad test and appreciate the drive, tion and hard work and study people put in to pass the exam become new American citizen not take our citizenship for granted.

I applaud and [Congressmember] Carolyn Maloney for caring about affordable housing for senior citizens and for all of the and diligence she has done to grant for the building of another affordable housing building. Senior citizens have been the greatest and done so much to make great.

I also applaud Assembly

NY1 News

Oct 25, 2007

Weather: AM Showers.High: 60

[Top News](#) • [NY1 Living](#)

Public Advocate Wants Better Communication Over Toxic Toys October 24, 2007

With the holiday shopping season right around the corner, city lawmakers are buying toys that are safe and lead-free.

Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum revealed her ideas to get toxic toys out says it all starts with a team effort.

"I really want the city to work with the retailers," she said. "I want the toys removed from city schools, hospitals, and child care systems, and I want to communicate with parents the dangers of these toxic toys."

Gotbaum also suggested more citywide toy testing.

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POSTED TO CITY HALL

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER
31, 2007**

**Gotbaum Finds More NYCHA
Gripes**



Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum released her annual report this morning, which finds a 7% increase in complaints about the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Most of those complaints dealt with maintenance.

"New York is the greatest city in the world. But city government? Sometimes it can be more of an obstacle than a tool to help New Yorkers. Our job is to help New Yorkers cut through the city's red tape, so they can access the social services, housing and quality education that they and their families deserve. I want to thank and congratulate my staff for all of their hard work and dedication this year," said Gotbaum.

More here.

*For more New York political coverage visit
City Hall News.*

Posted by John DeSio at 10:58 AM
tags: nypress, new york, betsy gotbaum,
nycha, public advocate



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THE CRAIN'S INSIDER

A daily newsletter on government action of importance

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

TODAY'S NEWS

SUBPRIME SOLUTIONS

Richard Neiman, state superintendent of banks, says he's talking to big mortgage lenders in New York about a large-scale effort to rescue borrowers facing foreclosure. He wants banks to arrange with private-sector funds to buy huge numbers of troubled loans at a discount, then restructure them at terms that borrowers can afford. Neiman also suggests banning "liar loans," in which lenders don't verify borrowers' incomes. But Ken Markison, regulatory counsel for the Mortgage Bankers Association, says that would shut out legitimate borrowers who can't document their incomes.

GOTBAUM ADVOCATES

Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum is writing two Chinese petroleum companies to ask that they pressure Myanmar officials to stop the violence against pro-democracy groups. The city invests pension dollars in PetroChina Co. and China Petroleum Corp., both of which invest in Myanmar. The companies just increased their stake in developing Myanmar's natural-gas resources, and extending oil and gas pipelines to China from Myanmar, Gotbaum says. She is asking executives to outline specific steps that they are taking to end military oppression of residents. She sits on the board of the NYC Employees Retirement System.

COLUMBIA SUPPORT

Central Labor Council officials met recent-

City official reassures MTA

Insiders say that Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff has promised the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that the city will cover cost overruns if the No. 7 subway extension goes over budget. But the reassurances don't show up in writing anywhere that City Hall or the MTA is willing to disclose. From the start, MTA Chief Executive Lee Sander has said that he would not move ahead with the project without such financial support from the city, and last week he asked his board to approve a \$1.14-billion tunneling contract to kick off the construction.

ly with Columbia University to discuss endorsing its expansion plan, which would create work for trade unions. Insiders say there is a snag in the talks; the CLC says it is not ready to discuss the negotiations. The Partnership for New York City, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the New York Building Congress have recently endorsed the plan. The New York Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association supports the plan but has voiced concerns about its use of eminent domain.

EDUCATION LOBBY

Brooklyn-based Democrats for Education Reform met with Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., when he was in town Monday and discussed the group's support for reauthorizing No