

Defend Our Freedom Of Assembly



In January 2007, the NYPD passed a new law attacking freedom of assembly. The police law states “any procession or race that consists of a recognizable group of 50 or more pedestrians [or bicycles... proceeding together upon any public street” must apply to the police for a permit. And then, they may gather only if the police approve.

We didn't vote Police Commissioner Kelly into office. So why is he writing a law? Isn't that the job of our elected officials?

The NYC Bar Association and the NY Civil Liberties Union have argued that this new law destroys our First Amendment rights. Community outrage has been fierce. Ten City Councilors have pledged to repeal this law. It's a shame that City Council Speaker Christine Quinn isn't one of them.

With Friends Like Quinn, Who Needs Enemies?

We – a contingent of the NYC queer community – are outraged that Speaker Quinn, an out lesbian who claims to speak for us, has endorsed the NYPD's law. She's snuffing out the very civil rights that made it possible for her to become Speaker. Quinn wants to become Mayor, even if that means selling our rights down the historical river.

Today, we're engaging in an un-permitted march to challenge the new police law. The Stonewall Veterans didn't ask for a permit and neither are we!

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Ask your City Councilor to overturn the police law on assembly:

<http://www.nycouncil.info/constituent/index.cfm>

Express your outrage to Speaker Quinn: (212) 788-7210

Check out AssembleForRightsNYC.org for the latest in this civil rights battle

During her campaign, Christine Quinn promised a fresh, progressive brand of politics as the first lesbian City Council Speaker. Her record speaks for itself.

Queer Issues:

Quinn is proud and outspoken about her refusal to take part in the exclusionary Saint Patrick's Day Parade on 5th Avenue. Yet as Speaker, she remains silent on City agencies (uniformed NYPD and FDNY) participation in the parade.

In the 90's, Quinn headed up The Anti-Violence Project. The AVP focuses on hate crimes against queers. On the surface, this sounds admirable. The reality is, the AVP simply encourages lengthy prison sentences and does nothing to promote non-discrimination or educational projects to prevent hate crimes.

Pedicabs (Bicycle Taxis):

Behind closed doors, Quinn colluded with her friend, taxi industry lobbyist Emily Giske, to place a cap of 325 pedicabs. Quinn wants to curtail the growth of environmentally friendly transportation and destroy the jobs of 175 bicycle cabbies.

Development:

In her 1999 campaign for city Council, Quinn promised that she would not take money from developers. She reneged.

Quinn supports the Atlantic Yards project in Brooklyn which is using eminent domain so a private company can evict long-term residents and businesses.

Even though Quinn opposed the Jets

stadium, she refused to appear with the West Side community at an anti-stadium rally. She currently refuses to take a stand against the current development plan for Hudson Yards, which includes the Javits expansion, 14 office towers and 28 luxury housing towers.

She remains silent on the 200 threatened community gardens and the recent demolition of Neuva Esperanza Jardín in East Harlem.

Housing:

Quinn opposes the proposal to provide city housing assistance to low-income HIV patients. Quinn claims, “It will set a precedent that the city should provide housing for poor New Yorkers with other diseases, like cancer and diabetes.”



Quinn enhanced the power of landlords. In one of her first actions as Speaker,

she allowed Joe Strasburg, the city's leading landlord lobbyist and head of the Rent Stabilization Association, to approve the appointment of the next chair of the Council's housing and buildings committee, which considers all landlord-tenant legislation.

Quinn has been a tireless supporter of luxury housing and gentrification projects in the West Village and Chelsea.

Animal Rights:

Quinn opposes a ban on the sale of foie gras, an entree produced by force-feeding baby ducks until their livers swell to ten times their original size. Even Arnold Schwarzenegger banned the sale of foie gras throughout California.

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