

Council Supports QCC on seniors

The Council position on DFTA restructuring appears very similar to that taken by the Queens Civic Congress, March 17. (See link after the entry below)

From The Daily Politics blog at The Daily News:
March 28, 2008

Quinn Splits With Bloomberg Over Senior Services

Council Speaker Christine Quinn is engaged in one of her few departures from the Bloomberg administration's agenda by opposing a plan to overhaul the city Department for the Aging - a proposal that has angered elderly activists (in other words: A key voting bloc).

During an impromptu press conference at City Hall today[non-relevant material removed] Quinn revealed that she has asked DFTA to slow down its massive restructuring plan for "at least six months."

"We are concerned that this restructuring is moving too quickly," Quinn said. "We are also worried that they have not thought through the transportation needs of seniors as their thinking of moving centers around. We also want to make sure there is enough commitment to keeping social contact that's necessary for homebound seniors.

We also want to make sure that if this restructuring results in people losing or changing jobs, giving the growing number of seniors living in the city, that we capturing those workings and retraining them because what we don't want is to be losing geriatric workers in the city.

"But the most critical message we want to send to DFTA is slow down. The restructuring of the senior centers, which may yield a good result in the end, is complicated, it's big and it's impacts seniors' lives."

Quinn said a letter was sent last week to DFTA Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, signed by herself and Council members Maria del Carmen Arroyo (chair, Aging Committee) and James Vacca (chair, subcommittee on senior centers), expressing concern about the overhaul plan.

The speaker said she hopes to follow up on the letter with a meeting Monday.

[<http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/2008/03/quinn-splits-with-bloomberg-ov.html>]

For the Queens Civic Congress letter, click this link:

[2008-03-17 NYC Department for the Aging's plans to restructure how the City delivers services to the elderly will affect not only seniors \(Letter\)](#)