

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK COUNCIL MEMBER SIMCHA FELDER



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Felder Fumes at State's Inability to Act *Legislation to End Unwanted Menus and Fliers Remains Incomplete*

City Hall – Council Member Simcha Felder (D-Brooklyn) is disappointed that the State Legislature was unable to pass legislation that would curb the unwanted distribution of menus, fliers, and circulars during their session earlier this week. Felder was the primary sponsor of a similar piece of legislation in the City Council that would have addressed the problem, had the State not taken up the issue.

“I am frustrated that the State Legislature was unable to act on an important piece of legislation, but not nearly as frustrated as the New Yorkers who have to clean up the trash that is thrown on their property every day,” Felder said.

In April 2007, Council Member Felder’s legislation, City Council Introduction 427, made international news and created a stir in the City when Felder announced that the bill would fine anyone who distributes unwanted circulars, menus, or fliers to buildings that display a small sign indicating that it does not wish to receive them. Over the summer, the State legislature decided to pass legislation, applying to the City of New York, addressing the same issue. The State law was then found to require an amendment to address shortcomings in the legislation, mainly to address the case of large apartment buildings, condos and co-ops, and to address which city agency would be in charge of enforcement.

“I was under the impression that regardless of the shenanigans going on in Albany, the Legislature would still be able to come together and do the people’s work. A simple piece of legislation on an issue that the State already supported, one that would help thousands of New Yorkers, could not even get passed,” Felder added.