

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony Submitted by Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum before the Rules, Privileges and Elections Committee Hearing on August 22, 2007 concerning the appointment of Council Member Gail Brewer to the Commission on Public Information and Communication

I am pleased to support Council Member Brewer's appointment as the Council representative for CoPIC, the Commission on Public Information and Communication. CoPIC is an important body and should be convened as envisioned in the City Charter. Among other purposes, the Commission is charged with making recommendations on new technology to improve access to the city's information, including city cable offerings, and publishing a data access directory. With innovations such as 311, internet content, and web casts the city has made substantial progress in information delivery in the past decade. Given the rapid advancements in new technology, having a body such as CoPIC reviewing and recommending its proper usages would be instrumental to the city's operations.

Additionally, the Commission is tasked to review city information and meeting policies and provide advisory opinions on Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) matters. This is especially relevant given recent changes to the State's FOIL statute.

CoPIC meetings provide a unique opportunity for government officials to discuss issues that are important to New Yorkers and allow them to share information and ideas with each other about the work that is being done to address these issues.

I want to thank Speaker Quinn for nominating Councilmember Brewer for this post. I urge the Committee to support this nomination, and as the Chair of CoPIC, I look forward to working with Councilmember Brewer and the full Council to make CoPIC a success.