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News

City Council Members Fight Parade Arrests

WNYC Newsroom

NEW YORK, NY June 18, 2007 —Two City Council members want the police to drop all charges against the more than 200 people arrested at last weekend's Puerto Rican Day Parade.

REPORTER: Councilwoman Rosie Mendez, who is Puerto Rican, called the arrests arbitrary. Civil rights lawyer Norman Siegel says that most of the arrests were unjustified.

SIEGEL: It is very difficult to charge unlawful assembly when people are attending a lawful assembly - ie the Puerto Rican Day parade. The people in the parade have a legal right to parade, the people on the sidewalk have a legal right to be there.

REPORTER: The Police Department says that many of those arrested were members of the Latin Kings gang and suspected they would try to march uninvited.

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