

The Sun

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CITY WANTS TO GRANT MORE POWER TO CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPT. The Bloomberg administration wants to give the Department of Consumer Affairs the right to adjudicate violations it issues to businesses that are not licensed by the city.

The city currently is allowed to issue fines, but can only hold hearings for businesses that it licenses, which excludes furniture stores, funeral homes, and others. The commissioner of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Gretchen Dykstra, told a City Council committee yesterday that the agency lacked “the effective leverage” to enforce the law and that the new authority would allow the city to better protect consumers.

In fiscal year 2004, there were 1,060 violations issued to business that the city did not have the authority to hold hearings on. Opponents of proposed legislation said the city is already issuing too many violations.

The president of the Neighborhood Retail Alliance, Richard Lipsky, said, “You gotta sell a lot of pineapples if you get a \$1,000 fine.”

— *Staff Reporter of the Sun*