

## **New York Daily News - <http://www.nydailynews.com>**

### **Guard-ing nightlife**

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Mayor Bloomberg signed into law yesterday a bill giving the city new powers to shut down bars and other nightspots that don't properly screen and regulate their bouncers.

Prompted largely by the murder of John Jay College graduate student Imette St. Guillen after she left a SoHo bar Feb. 25, the measure will bolster the safety of nightlife throughout the five boroughs, officials predicted.

The new law, which takes effect in 90 days, allows the city to close bars, clubs and cabarets that hire security guards who haven't met state requirements for certification and training, and undergone criminal background checks.

"This will help establishments all over the city," said City Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island). "And parents are going to feel a lot better when their children go out at night."

Ex-con Darryl Littlejohn, 41, who had been working illegally as a bouncer at the now-shuttered The Falls bar, is charged with murdering the 24-year-old St. Guillen.

Recchia was instrumental in getting relatives of St. Guillen and their lawyer, Joseph Tacopina, together with Council Speaker Christine Quinn and other officials to draft the legislation.

Tacopina represented St. Guillen's mother, Maureen, who lives in Boston, at the bill signing at City Hall. He said the mother, who has vowed "to make sure Imette does not die in vain," is thankful for the law's prompt passage.

Also fueling the crackdown on drinking establishments were several other fatal incidents tied to bouncers.

Tacopina also is representing the family of the late Antonios Fasarakis, 19, of Astoria, who died June 8 after an alleged scuffle outside the Soma lounge in Astoria with a bouncer who reportedly has a record of two assault convictions.

The bouncer, Francisco Solivan, 24, has been charged with misdemeanor assault.

Quinn cited another case in her Manhattan district, which includes Chelsea.

Bouncer Stephen Sakai, 30, of Brooklyn, was charged with fatally shooting Gustavo Cuadros, 25, and wounding three other men on May 23 outside a Chelsea nightclub, Opus 22, where Sakai worked. Sakai was later accused of three other unrelated homicides.

Bouncers are supposed to protect patrons, but at times they're "the people who are perpetrating crime against the patron," Quinn said.

The new bouncer regulation law, and other measures in the works - such as a bill requiring security cameras at the entrances and exits of nightspots - will help make nightlife in the city "as safe as it can possibly be," Quinn said.