



*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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**SURVEY FINDS MORE THAN 100,000 LOW-  
INCOME SENIORS LANGUISHING ON WAITING  
LISTS FOR HOUSING ON AVERAGE OF 7 YEARS**

**Recently released report by LiveOn NY shows depth of senior housing crisis  
and urgent need for action**

CITY HALL – Council Member Margaret Chin, chair of the Council’s Committee on Aging, reacted to a survey released today showing more than 100,000 seniors on waiting lists for housing for an average of seven years – underscoring the urgent need for action to create more affordable units for elder New Yorkers.

“This report confirms what many older New Yorkers have known all along: that the crisis of affordable senior housing is bad, and is getting rapidly worse,” **said Council Member Chin.** “With the number of seniors growing at a faster rate than the population as a whole, our City must act now to maximize the amount of safe, accessible and affordable housing built in our neighborhoods. Clearly, our seniors cannot afford to languish on waiting lists for an average of seven years. That is why I am asking my Council colleagues to join me in supporting the Administration’s affordable housing proposals to confront the crisis that is plaguing our City’s seniors.”

**Bobbie Sackman, Director of Public Policy, LiveOn NY, states,** “To say that the need for affordable housing for low-income seniors is ‘through the roof’ is an understatement. With over 100,000 older New Yorkers confirmed to be on waiting lists averaging 7 years – with the total number likely over 200,000 – it is obvious the city has a responsibility to pave the way to building more affordable housing. LiveOn NY supports Mayor de Blasio’s ZQA plan because it would streamline the development process, make it more affordable to build, and make use of underutilized parking lots attached to senior buildings which are, by law, only for the building’s residents. LiveOn NY looks to City Council to allow ZQA, as proposed, to pass. The development process to build affordable senior housing must be made more rational and efficient so seniors don’t have to wait so long. Without the passage of ZQA, these lots will sit undeveloped and seniors will keep waiting.”

The survey, compiled by LiveOn NY, found 111,000 low-income older adults on waiting lists for senior housing. Responses to this survey were received from 43 percent of federally-funded senior housing buildings – indicating that the total number of low-income seniors on waiting lists across the five boroughs is actually much higher.

The average annual income of seniors eligible for units in the buildings covered by LiveOn NY's survey is \$15,000 a year.

LiveOn NY sorted responses to its waitlist survey by Council District, showing the breadth of the senior housing crisis confronting our City. Council Districts for which no data from federally-funded senior housing buildings was received are indicated by an asterisk on the survey.

Council Member Chin urged her Council colleagues to approve the Administration's proposed Zoning for Quality and Affordability, which would make building affordable units and senior facilities easier by providing a flexible building envelope and reducing parking requirements.

"With these changes, we will begin to see more development of affordable, independent housing with access to a continuum of care that will allow seniors to age in place in the neighborhoods they helped build," **Council Member Chin said.**

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