



## THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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# CHIN & VALLONE CALL MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE BUDGET 'AN INSULT' TO GROWING NUMBER OF SENIORS

***Latest version of Fiscal 2018 budget includes only  
\$445,000 in additional funding for vital DFTA services***

CITY HALL – Council Member Margaret S. Chin, chair of the Council's Committee on Aging, and Council Member Paul Vallone, chair of the Council's Subcommittee on Senior Centers, issued the following statement in response to yesterday's release of the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2018:

"While we thank the Mayor for his commitment to creating badly needed housing and to keeping seniors in their homes, we are deeply disappointed by the lack of funding for vital services on which a growing number of older New Yorkers depend. For seniors who worked hard all their lives with the assurance that their basic needs would be met, this Executive Budget is an insult. We need a responsible budget that accounts for the needs, not only of the current population of seniors with no other options, but the growing number of those who are becoming seniors. Much as we invested in youth services in this budget, and in last year's budget, we desperately need to invest in our seniors. Far from being at the end of their lives, older New Yorkers are living longer, and contribute every day to the vibrancy and vitality of our City. It is time for our City to prioritize their needs to ensure that no one spends their days languishing on a waitlist when they could be living healthier, happier and more productive lives."

As part of Council Member Chin's push to make Fiscal Year 2018 the "Year of the Senior," both Chin and Vallone fought to include over \$60 million in additional funding for core services for the Department for the Aging (DFTA) in the Council's budget response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget.

Included in the budget response is a request to baseline nearly \$20 million in funding for senior services that the City Council currently provides through discretionary funding. Also, Chin and Vallone requested the "right sizing" of senior centers, and enough funding to eliminate waitlists for basic City services.

In the Executive Budget, the Administration baselined only \$225,000 for DFTA services and \$220,000 for additional staff, for a total of 445,000 in additional funding.

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