



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

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## **COUNCIL MEMBERS CHIN & VALLONE URGE CITY TO INVEST IN OUR SENIORS**

CITY HALL – The City Council’s Committee on Aging and Subcommittee on Senior Centers held a joint preliminary budget hearing with the city Department for the Aging (DFTA) about its \$279.7 million proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

After the hearing, **Council Member Margaret Chin**, chair of the Committee on Aging, and **Council Member Paul Vallone**, chair of the Subcommittee on Senior Centers, released the following joint statement:

“One year ago, we were confronted with a budget from this Administration that included no new funding for our City’s growing senior population. Today, we are pleased to find \$5.3 million in new needs for senior services, including a stable source of funding for elder abuse prevention that our seniors can count on for years to come.

“However, even with this additional funding, we cannot ignore the fact that this budget does not fully address the challenges presented by our aging City.

“This Administration stresses the importance of maintaining a responsible government and responsible budgeting, but the failure to fully fund DFTA’s core operations is not consistent with the progressive values that our City seeks to embody.

“Council funding currently supplements over 10 percent of the Department’s budget. This is unacceptable. Ongoing core operations should not rely on year-to-year Council discretionary funding.

“In order to create a budget that adequately addresses the needs of elder New Yorkers, this Administration needs to provide a stable and consistent funding source to eliminate waitlists for homecare and case management services.

“Investing in our seniors is investing in our City. By making targeted investments today, we are recognizing the pivotal role that seniors play in our everyday lives as caregivers, volunteers, and civic leaders who care deeply about their neighbors and their neighborhoods.”

“We look forward to continuing the conversation with this Administration on doing right by our seniors in this year’s final adopted budget.”

**BACKGROUND:** The Department for the Aging’s Fiscal Year 2017 Preliminary Budget totals \$279.7 million — including baselined funding that adds \$3.5 million elder abuse prevention. The Council allocated \$33.8 million to DFTA’s budget in Fiscal Year 2016 – an allocation that represented over 10 percent of the agency’s core funding, up from 7 percent in Fiscal Year 2015.

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