



# THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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

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## **COUNCIL MEMBERS CHIN & VALLONE: A CITY BUDGET WITH NO NEW FUNDING FOR SENIORS IS NOT A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET**

*Mayor's Preliminary Budget Includes No New Funding for Senior Services; City Council's Aging Committee Vows to Fight for New Funds*

On March 23 the City Council's Committee on Aging and Subcommittee on Senior Centers held a joint preliminary budget hearing to discuss the funding needs for the city's Department for the Aging (DFTA).

**Following that hearing, and responding to the fact that Mayor de Blasio did not include any new DFTA funding in his Fiscal Year 2016 preliminary budget, 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:**

“Seniors represent one of New York City’s fastest growing populations. There are 1.4 million adults aged 60 and over in our city, totaling more than 17 percent of our residents. By 2030, the senior population is projected to comprise around 20 percent of the city’s total population.

“It is often said that a city’s priorities are reflected in its budget — and when he presented his Fiscal Year 2016 preliminary budget, Mayor de Blasio repeatedly stated that he believes it is fiscally responsible, progressive and honest. It is hard for us to agree that this budget is responsible, since no new funding was added for the Department for the Aging.

“In order to create a more responsible budget, Mayor de Blasio should first baseline funding for the core DFTA programs that have previously been funded by the City Council, including Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly (EISEP), social adult day care and space and transportation operating costs for senior centers. The mayor should also provide additional funding to restore basic services for senior centers, reduce caseloads for case management and clear the homecare waitlist. In addition, the mayor should provide more funding to expand Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), including those within NYCHA, where so many seniors live and where senior center funding has often been at risk.

“We look forward to continuing this discussion with the Mayor’s Office.”

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**BACKGROUND:** The Department for the Aging's Fiscal Year 2016 Preliminary Budget totals \$257.3 million — a decrease of \$23.4 million (or 8.4 percent) compared to the Fiscal Year 2015 Adopted Budget. The majority of the decrease can be attributed to the absence of one-time City Council funding for senior services in Fiscal Year 2015. The Council allocated nearly \$20 million to DFTA in Fiscal Year 2015, the majority of which supported core services such as senior centers, elder abuse prevention and meals.

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