



# THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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

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## **COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN JOINS COUNCIL COLLEAGUES TO ANNOUNCE MORE THAN \$20 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SENIORS**

### ***Council successfully fought for more money for NYC's growing senior population***

**New York, NY** – Today, Council Member Margaret Chin, chair of the Council's Committee on Aging, announced millions of dollars in desperately needed additional funding for our city's seniors, including money for the Dept. for the Aging (DFTA) to keep senior centers open, to ease waitlists for services for elder New Yorkers, and to provide services in specifically designated neighborhoods that have a high concentration of seniors.

The Council successfully fought for more than \$20 million in additional items in the adopted FY16 budget, including:

- **Over \$11 million for senior services initiatives, including enhanced funding for core senior centers' operating costs, initiatives that aid seniors to age safely in place, support for arts and cultural programs in senior centers, and an initiative that supports senior centers that predominately serve immigrant senior populations.**
- **\$7.8 million in additional funding to ease waitlists for services for elder New Yorkers, including \$4.8 million for DFTA's homecare program to provide daily care and assistance to more than 500 low-income, frail seniors who are currently on a waitlist; and \$3 million to address the case management waitlist of almost 2,000 seniors awaiting services.**
- **\$2 million in additional baseline funding for city-wide elder abuse services.**

There are currently around 1.5 million seniors in New York City, and according to projections by senior advocacy groups, by the year 2030 around one in five New Yorkers will be a senior.

"After extensive hearings, discussions, and urgent calls for a responsible budget that adequately funds vital services for our seniors, I am happy to announce that we have secured over \$20 million in additional money that our growing aging community desperately needs," said Council Member Chin.

"One of the yardsticks by which to measure any society is how it takes care of its elders. All New Yorkers can be proud of this budget, which makes it clear to our seniors that they are not forgotten, and that they will have access to the support and services they deserve. I thank my Council colleagues, including Speaker Mark-Viverito and Subcommittee on Senior Centers chair Vallone, for their tireless work on behalf of our senior citizens."

"Council Member Chin and I have fought tirelessly against the lack of funding included by the Administration for the Department for the Aging and our city's senior population," said Council Member Vallone, Chair of the Subcommittee on Senior Centers. "Our advocacy combined with everyone who has stood with us resulted in the Administration providing an additional \$4.8 million to address the home care wait list for seniors and an additional \$2 million to fully fund programs to combat elder abuse. I will always continue to be an advocate for our city's seniors and I am proud to have fought for these additional funds."

"It is terribly distressing that with each passing year more and more of our seniors in this city are dependent on senior centers and not-for-profit organizations to provide them with healthy meals," said Council Member Karen Kozlowitz. "I am gratified that my budget initiative to include funding to provide an additional 6th day meal for homebound seniors as well as those belonging to senior centers was included in this year's budget."

“As a longtime advocate for seniors, I am extremely pleased that the FY16 budget includes enhancements for senior services,” said Council Member James Vacca. “As New York City’s aging population continues to grow, it is important for the City to support our older adults, and with this budget, we are doing just that. Because of these significant enhancements, DFTA’s homecare program will no longer have a waitlist, more seniors will be able to find affordable homes, and we will have stronger tools to combat elder abuse. I’m also proud of the new Healthy Aging Initiative I proposed this year, which will help seniors citywide improve their health and well-being through local programs. I would like to thank Chair Chin for her stalwart advocacy for seniors, and I look forward to working with her and all my colleagues in the year ahead.”

“I am particularly attuned to the specific needs of seniors, as I represent one of the largest older adult communities in our City,” said Council Member Chaim Deutsch. “I am proud to be a member of the Aging Committee, where, under the leadership of Chair Margaret Chin, I have the opportunity to work together with my colleagues to advocate for the necessities that our aging population is sorely in need of. Our FY16 budget is remarkably senior-friendly, with money allocated for elder abuse enhancements, the Holocaust Survivors Initiative, handyman services, and a remarkable \$4.8 million designated to eliminate DFTA’s homecare waitlist. After a lifetime of raising families, working and contributing to the success of our communities, our seniors are most deserving of this increased funding. I look forward to continuing to work with Chair Chin and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito in making our City comfortable and accessible to our seniors, our most vulnerable.”

“I am thrilled by what the City Council was able to achieve this year for our seniors. In particular, we pushed hard for funding to support Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities so that our seniors can age safely and comfortably in their own neighborhood. I am looking forward to more seniors my district taking advantage of NORC’s Aging in Place Initiative, and look forward to working with the Council’s Chair of Aging Margaret Chin to further enhance senior living throughout the five boroughs,” said Council Member Jumaane Williams, Deputy Leader and Chair of the Council’s Housing and Buildings Committee.

“Senior citizens are the lifeblood of our city and it is our job to ensure they receive the best care our city can offer,” said Council Member Vincent Gentile. “I am pleased to announce I was successful in securing an additional \$900,000 for the enhancement of nursing services in Naturally Occurring Retirement Community’s and to expand NORC’s city-wide. With this additional funding, we are building on the successes of last year and I couldn’t be more pleased.”

"On the same year that we recognized the 70th year since the liberation of Auschwitz, I am proud to agree on a budget that addresses the need to support 30,000 Holocaust survivors living in poverty in the City of New York. As a son of Dominican Immigrants, the story of how the Dominican government opened up its borders to those fleeing persecution during the Holocaust and provided them with relief, inspired me as an elected official to lead the initiative in New York City to ensure survivors are given access to high quality food, social services, and healthcare. I, along with the speaker and my colleagues, feel strongly that these residents have endured enough pain and suffering in their lifetime and we must commit to provide resources and programs that will ensure their remaining days will be lived in dignity. I consider this a first step towards ensuring survivors of genocide living in New York City are able to access the critical services they deserve," said Council Member Rafael Espinal.

"I am very pleased to have introduced SU-CASA – an Initiative that will bring a number of our city’s finest Cultural Arts groups and artists into some of our senior centers. By coordinating arts programs to service our senior adults, participants will benefit from a myriad of wonderful activities which may include arts, music, dance or crafts," stated Council Member Alan Maisel.

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