



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

OCTOBER 12, 2017

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CM CHIN ARGUES FOR LONG TERM INVESTMENT IN NEW YORK CITY'S SENIORS AT 'STATE OF NY HEALTH' PANEL

NEW YORK – Today, Council Member Margaret S. Chin joined healthcare leaders at City & State NY's "State of NY Health" forum to discuss her advocacy as Chair of the Committee on Aging and her work to address the challenges and opportunities of creating an age-friendly City.

"Today's forum was a space to not only discuss our strides to make 2017 the 'Year of the Senior,' but also remind other healthcare professionals that we need to invest in holistic programs, better coordination among our medical, social, and government networks, and more affordable senior housing in order to address the needs of our City's growing senior population," said Council Member Chin. "Becoming a senior is a privilege, and there is still so much more work to do to ensure that age is not a barrier for New Yorkers to live full, healthy lives. As Chair of the Committee on Aging, I am committed to continuing to build coalitions, championing more inclusive policies, and setting a strong foundation for a 'Decade of the Senior.'"



At the panel, Council Member Chin shared her insight on the process behind making the 'Year of the Senior' campaign a success. Last year, when the City passed its \$82.1 billion budget, the Department for the Aging received only less than half a percent,

and Council Member Chin vowed that this fiscal year would be the ‘Year of the Senior.’ A coalition of senior advocates, service providers, and other elected officials convened to create a comprehensive plan for the future of the City’s senior services, and organized and rallied to secure a historic \$22.9 million increase in permanent baseline senior funding. This was the largest single-year increase the City has seen in at least 15 years.

Assembling over 200 healthcare professionals across New York State, the forum provided an opportunity for industry executives to talk about the most pressing issues impacting New York’s health policies and programs.

Focusing on “Services in Healthcare for the Aging and Vulnerable Populations in NY,” Council Member Chin’s panel also included:

- **Erin Billups**, Health Reporter, Spectrum News NY1 (moderator)
- **Christopher A. Langston**, Vice President, HealthCare Services, Aging in New York Fund
- **Joann Donnelly**, Vice President of Healthy Living, YMCA of Greater New York
- **Tom Check**, CEO, Healthix, Inc.
- **Jeffrey Plaut**, Founding Partner, Global Strategy Group, LLC



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