



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

JUNE 4, 2015

Contact: Sam Spokony [CM Chin] 212-788-7259, sspokony@council.nyc.gov
Lionel Morales [CM Vallone] 718-619-8611, lmorales@council.nyc.gov

CHIN & VALLONE: TIME TO STOP TALKING AND START TAKING ACTION FOR SENIORS

***Mayor de Blasio Hasn't Met the Challenge to Provide Enough Senior Funding
in FY16 Executive Budget***

***Department for the Aging Forced to Give Up More Than \$3 Million and
Reduce Services to Vulnerable Seniors***

New York, NY—Today, following the City Council's Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Budget hearing for city's Department for the Aging (DFTA), Council Members Margaret Chin and Paul Vallone, respective chairs of the Committee on Aging and Subcommittee on Senior Centers, released the following statement:

“Today's executive budget hearing for the city's Department for the Aging showed us once again that Mayor de Blasio and his administration have not yet shown the proper willingness and urgency to step up and support seniors in our city. By the year 2030, around one in five New Yorkers will be a senior — and today, one in five seniors in our city already live in poverty. Instead of responding to that need, the de Blasio administration continues to pick away at DFTA's core funding and reverse the strides we all made for the aging population in last year's budget.

“The administration has ignored our calls for \$4.3 million to support senior center operations, \$3 million to help 2,000 seniors on the case management waitlist, and \$4.25 million to provide homecare to 500 struggling seniors on a waitlist. Furthermore, the administration has failed to include the \$2 million needed to fund the Elder Abuse RFP which would go to combat one of the most critical issues facing our vulnerable senior population. We learned today that, instead, they're still discussing other options.

“On top of that, even while the mayor's FY 2016 Executive Budget includes more than \$4 billion in savings reserves, DFTA was forced to give back more than \$3 million in 'efficiency savings.' Let's call that what it is — a major cut that's going to result in reduced services for vulnerable seniors. That's not fair to our seniors, and it frankly makes no sense.

“Seniors can't keep waiting for the support they need. It's time for Mayor de Blasio to stop talking about helping seniors and start taking action by providing the funding DFTA needs to get the job done.”

###