



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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COUNCIL MEMBERS CHIN & VALLONE PRAISE ‘YEAR OF THE SENIOR’ BUDGET

CITY HALL – Today, the New York City Council passed the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, which includes a \$22.89 million increase in permanent funding for senior services. Council Member Margaret S. Chin, chair of the Council’s Committee on Aging, and Council Member Paul Vallone, chair of the Council’s Subcommittee on Senior Centers, praised the increase, which will strengthen the social safety net for seniors.

“I thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair Ferreras-Copeland and Mayor de Blasio for truly making this year the Year of the Senior,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “With a nearly \$23 million increase in permanent funding, senior centers across New York City can begin to hire the requisite staff to fully serve their clients. Low income seniors will be able to take home an additional meal for the weekend. The city will be able to provide caregivers the support they deserve. And most importantly, seniors will no longer have to be on a waitlist for homecare or case management services. This budget is a large step forward to ensuring our older New Yorkers can continue to age with dignity.”

“This \$23 million increase in permanent funding is a major win for seniors throughout NYC and truly reflects the needs of this rapidly growing segment of our population,” said Council Member Paul Vallone, Chair of the Subcommittee on Senior Centers. “Baselining this funding will allow the City Council to allocate funds towards innovative programs and technologies that will only enhance the quality of the services we are able to provide our seniors. I will always continue to be an advocate for our city’s seniors and I am proud to have fought for these additional funds with Council Member Margaret Chin. 2017 will be remembered as the Year of the Senior!” said **Council Member Paul Vallone**.

The FY 2018 budget provides \$10 million to “right-size” senior centers to allow every center to hire appropriate staff and deliver necessary services. This budget also provides \$1.2 million to assist the current case management waitlist and \$6.49 million to address the waitlist for homecare services. With \$4 million in baselined funding, the budget creates the first citywide program to support caregivers. Lastly, the Administration also baselined \$1.2 million in funding for sixth congregate meals so low income seniors who need it can take an additional meal home from their neighborhood senior centers for the weekend.

AARP New York State Director Beth Finkel said, “The new budget is a home run for the city’s growing senior population, and AARP is grateful that Aging Chair Chin, Council Member Vallone, the Mayor and the Council listened to the 50+. Baselining critical senior services to ensure that funding is there every year and including additional funding for family caregiver support will help New Yorkers age safely and with dignity in their own homes. Without these services, too many older New Yorkers would be forced to enter nursing homes that cost taxpayers – and families – too much.”

“On behalf of the 1.5 million older New Yorkers and our members who serve them, LiveOn NY is proud of City Council and Mayor Bill de Blasio for recognizing the value of all of us as we age. The infusion of \$23 million dollars into the Department for the Aging funded services will bring much needed relief to those older adults on home care and case management waiting lists, those who build peer communities in their senior centers, and family caregivers committed to caring for loved ones, needing respite and support. One year ago, Councilwoman Margaret Chin, Chair of the Aging Committee, declared 2017 the Year of the Senior. Seniors sent an astounding total of 21,000 letters to the Mayor, Speaker and councilmembers urging them to fund senior services. These funds will build the capacity of the dynamic workforce in neighborhoods citywide dedicated to improving the conditions and opportunities for older New Yorkers. The \$23 million is a sound investment in the future of New York City, making it a good place to grow old,” said **Allison Nickerson, Executive Director of LiveOn NY.**

“FPWA thanks Mayor de Blasio and the New York City Council for sending a powerful message to all older New Yorkers, that they are valued members of our vibrant and diverse communities. The nearly \$23 million the administration has invested in senior services will help improve and expand the critical services that allow older New Yorkers to remain in their homes and age safely and with dignity,” said **Emily Miles, Chief Program and Policy Officer at FPWA.** “At a time when our federally funded safety net programs are in danger, this investment from the city is critical to ensuring that we protect New York City’s fastest growing population. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Administration to ensure that we develop a plan to manage the needs of older New Yorkers.”

“The Fiscal Year 2018 Budget marks a significant victory for older New Yorkers and those who care for them,” said **Susan Stamler, Executive Director of United Neighborhood Houses.** “The \$22.89 million in new funding for the Department for the Aging will allow for older adults to live with dignity and support in their communities, and will bring needed relief to their caregivers. Seniors help make

neighborhoods vibrant and diverse, and this investment is an important step to ensure that all seniors can age in their communities. We thank Councilmember Chin for her tireless advocacy on behalf of seniors and caregivers.”

“We are grateful for the Mayor’s and the Council’s leadership with the Fiscal Year 2018 budget,” said **Beth Shapiro, Executive Director of Citymeals**. “The addition of more than \$20 million to senior services will ensure older New Yorkers – one of the city’s fastest growing populations – and the homebound elderly we serve can age with dignity. This critical funding comes at a time when 92% of those receiving meals on wheels report that home-delivered meals allow them to remain independent in their homes. Thank you especially to Council Members Chin and Vallone for their steadfast advocacy in the Year of the Senior.”

“CaringKind is gratified with the city’s recognition that as more New Yorkers need family caregiver support, added funds can reduce waiting lists for case management and home care services. I want to acknowledge Mayor de Blasio, the Department for the Aging and the City Council under the leadership of Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, and Aging Committee Chair Margaret Chin for their commitment to the rapidly increasing population of vulnerable older adults and the families who are responsible for their care,” said **Lou-Ellen Barkan, President and CEO of CaringKind**.

Late last year, Council Members Chin and Vallone joined aging advocates to declare a campaign to make Fiscal Year 2018 the Year of the Senior. The campaign urges the Administration to strengthen the senior social safety net by nearly \$135 million over the next five years to empower older New Yorkers to continue being active members of their communities.

In Mayor de Blasio’s Executive Budget, the Administration baselined only \$225,000 for DFTA services and \$200,000 for additional staff for a total of \$445,000 in additional funding.

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