



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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CM CHIN JOINS ‘TELE-TOWN HALL’ TO DISCUSS ONGOING EFFORTS TO KEEP SENIORS IN THEIR HOMES

Council Member and Mayor talk about funding for legal services, rent-freeze programs and affordable housing creation

CITY HALL – Council Member Margaret S. Chin joined Mayor Bill de Blasio to discuss anti-displacement efforts and affordable housing creation at a “TeleTownHall” meeting for seniors at City Hall on Wednesday.

Thousands of people from across our City participated in yesterday’s call, which focused on the Mayor’s proposed “Mansion Tax” to fund affordable housing for 25,000 seniors, as well as other efforts meant to keep New Yorkers of all ages in the homes and in the neighborhoods they helped build.

“Our city is facing an historic affordability crisis that threatens the very existence of our neighborhoods as a haven for low-income seniors and working families,” said **Council Member Chin**. “That is why I am fighting back by creating new affordable housing units, expanding access to Rent Freeze programs, and funding legal service providers to help keep tenants in their homes.

In recent months, Council Member Chin successfully fought to clear the way for the creation of up to 100 affordable senior housing units at a city-owned lot at Elizabeth and Mott streets in the heart of Little Italy. That’s in addition to the 100 units about to come online through a housing lottery at a soon-to-be-completed senior building at Essex Crossing.

She also introduced and passed Intro 243-A to increase the income eligibility level for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program from \$29,000 to \$50,000. Another bill she introduced and passed, Intro 1309, extended those expanded benefits until the year 2020.

Additionally, Council Member Chin provided funding for free and low-cost legal services to fight tenant harassment and displacement in our neighborhoods.

“I am committed to both the creation and preservation of affordable housing in our neighborhoods. Through our efforts, we are coming up with new tools to allow seniors, people with disabilities, and working families to stay in their homes, and weather this affordability crisis. There is still much work

to be done, and I plan to continue to work with our Mayor to ensure that no one is pushed out of their homes, or their neighborhoods,” said **Council Member Chin**.

The Mayor’s Mansion Tax of 2 percent on real estate sales over \$2 million would generate \$336 million to fund affordable housing for 25,000 seniors. That proposal requires state approval; however, the Mayor has already added 10,000 units of affordable housing, including 5,000 units for seniors, in this year’s budget.

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