

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024

Start: 10:15 A.M.

Recess: 10:42 A.M.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: HON. CRYSTAL HUDSON, CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

CHRIS BANKS
LINDA LEE
DARLENE MEALY,
YUSEF SALAAM
LYNN C. SCHULMAN
SUSAN ZHUANG

COMMITTEE ON AGING
A P P E A R A N C E S

(N/A)

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2 SERGEANT WONG: Sound check for the Committee on
3 Aging, today's date is March 19, 2024; being
4 recorded by Danny Huang in the Chambers.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to
6 the New York City Council's vote on the Committee on
7 Aging. At this time please place all electronic
8 devices to vibrate or silent mode. At no time is
9 anyone to approach the dais.

10 Chair, we are ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: (gavel sound) (gaveling in)

12 Thank you, and good morning, I am Council Member
13 Crystal Hudson, Chair of the Committee on Aging, and
14 my pronouns are she/her.

15 I would like to acknowledge that we have been
16 joined by Council Member Zhuang, Council Member
17 Mealy, Council Member Schulman, Council Member
18 Salaam, and Council Member Lee.

19 Today the Committee is voting on my bill,
20 proposed Introduction 228-A in relation to the
21 provision of information regarding the NYC Care
22 program to older adults. This legislation would
23 require the New York City Department for Aging or NYC
24 Aging, to make information available to older adults
25 about NYC Care, the NYC Health + Hospitals initiative

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2 to provide low or no-cost primary health care to
3 income-eligible NYC residents. NYC Aging would be
4 required to ensure that such information describes
5 the NYC Care initiative and provides eligibility
6 guidelines for the initiative. This information would
7 be provided to older adults in paper form and made
8 available at all locations where NYC Aging or NYC
9 Aging contracted entities provide services to
10 clients. Additionally, the information would include
11 a statement that eligibility to participate in NYC
12 Care is not based on immigration status, and that
13 support services are offered through NYC Care,
14 including access to social workers and care
15 coordinators that connect eligible individuals with
16 housing, legal services, financial assistance, and
17 food assistance.

18 This past February, the Committee on Aging joined
19 with the Committee on Immigration for a hearing that
20 examined how NYC's older adult population has become
21 more diverse than ever across the five boroughs. The
22 older adult population increased by 49% in the last
23 decade, and in Staten Island, it grew by 67%, which
24 is the fastest in New York City and the second
25 fastest among all counties in the state.

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2 Today, older immigrants make up 31% of all older
3 adults on Staten Island. Brooklyn's older adult
4 population growth is largely driven by the 46% growth
5 in the older immigrant population, which increased
6 24% over the last decade. Immigrants currently
7 comprise 58% of Brooklyn's older adult population.

8 As this committee has previously discussed at
9 length, immigrant groups with the fastest growing
10 populations of older adults are also among the
11 poorest in New York State, and they face increased
12 barriers to accessing health care and essential
13 benefits. The Committee received testimony
14 underscoring that the City must act to address the
15 needs of immigrant older adults and particularly low
16 income older adults and older immigrants of color.
17 This includes helping immigrant older adults to
18 access health care and find a primary care provider.

19 Proposed Introduction 228-A will ensure that
20 information about NYC Care is more readily available
21 to all older adults, including immigrant older adults
22 who can access the program regardless of immigration
23 status.

24 As our city's immigrant population ages, and as
25 older adults migrate to New York City, we must make

1 every effort to connect them with high quality,
2 language accessible, and culturally competent health
3 care. This legislation will ensure that information
4 about the City's vital health care access program is
5 always available to older adults in the places they
6 frequent most - such as our city's older adults
7 centers.
8

9 New York City's older adult population is growing
10 rapidly and faces a wide array of health concerns.
11 The City must be proactive in its approach to
12 enrolling New Yorkers in to NYC Care, and helping
13 older adults stay healthy and age with dignity.

14 I want to thank my staff and the Committee staff
15 for their work on this legislation, and I will now
16 turn it over to the clerk to call the roll.

17 CLERK: Thank you, good morning, William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk, rollcall vote, Committee on Aging,
19 Proposed Introduction 228-A.

20 Chair Hudson?

21 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: I vote aye, thank you.

22 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye

24 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just wanted to thank the Chair for this great legislation. Everyone should live in good sizable housing especially our seniors that built the city, and I vote aye, thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you, thank you.

CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye

CLERK: Council Member Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: (ABSENT)

CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: I vote aye, and I want to thank Chair Hudson for this bill.

CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you.

CLERK: With a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0 abstentions, item has been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you.

CLERK: Roll will be held open at the request of the Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you. The Aging
Committee hearing is now adjourned. [gavel sound]
[gaveling out]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date March 31, 2024