

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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July 22, 2015  
Start: 10:15 a.m.  
Recess: 10:59 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room  
16<sup>th</sup> Floor

B E F O R E: Margaret S. Chin  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Deborah L. Rose  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Mark Treyger  
Paul A. Vallone

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2 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Good morning. I'm  
3 Council Member Margaret Chin, Chair of the Council's  
4 Committee on Aging. Today, the committee will be  
5 voting on Proposed Resolution 748A sponsored by our  
6 colleague on the Aging Committee and the Chair of the  
7 Subcommittee on Senior Centers, Council Member Paul  
8 Vallone. This resolution calls on the State  
9 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign  
10 legislation requiring banking organizations to  
11 provide at a minimum the preceding six months of  
12 financial document following a request from  
13 authorized governmental agencies for such documents  
14 to help fight financial exploitation of older adults.  
15 Too often, social services agencies such as Adult  
16 Protective Services, APS, are provided with  
17 insufficient documentation to allow them to identify  
18 and prevent financial exploitation against seniors  
19 and other vulnerable adults. The changes in state  
20 law that this resolution urges are essential to  
21 clarifying the responsibility of financial  
22 institution to cooperate with governmental agencies  
23 to allow them to protect individuals from losing  
24 their life savings or the money they need to survive  
25 on a daily basis. I want to thank Council Member

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2 Vallone for his strong advocacy on these issues and  
3 his hard work on behalf of all seniors in New York  
4 City. I also would like to thank the Aging Committee  
5 staff, Eric Burnstein [sp?], our Committee Counsel,  
6 James Saboodi [sp?], our Policy Analyst, and Doheni  
7 Sampora [sp?], our Finance Analyst, and I urge my  
8 colleagues to support this resolution. Before the  
9 clerk calls the role, I would like to turn it over to  
10 Council Member Vallone to say a few words. Thank  
11 you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam  
13 Chair, and once again we make a great team, and it  
14 was a long good six months and I think the beginning  
15 of something new that we're going to work on with  
16 this taskforce, and many things were talked about. I  
17 know it was one of those rare opportunities where we  
18 had private and public partnership to figure out how  
19 to make things better, and today's resolution really  
20 is one of those steps, because anyone who has had any  
21 attempt to dealing with those in need and trying to  
22 assist them in getting their financial life back in  
23 order. One month of banking statements isn't going  
24 to do anything, and when the financial institutions  
25 step forward and say, "That's all we're going to give

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2 you," here's a piece of legislation and the  
3 resolution calling on the passing of it to say, "We  
4 need at a minimum six months." Because how can you  
5 tell if a senior or someone in need has been  
6 financially abused on one month of records? You  
7 can't. You have to look back. So, after 20 years of  
8 working in this field in a world called  
9 guardianships, many of the courts and the judges and  
10 the attorneys get very frustrated when there's a  
11 financial barrier put in front of our seniors and our  
12 persons in need when you can't get the documents you  
13 need to help the person. So here's one of these  
14 common sense, but yet necessary pieces to say at  
15 least give the minimum, and I thank everyone for  
16 allowing this resolution along with quite a few of  
17 our pieces we worked on together out of the taskforce  
18 that are coming up this week in our Stated Hearing to  
19 be voted on, and a lot of people made this happen.  
20 So, also our fellow Council Member Stephen Levin was  
21 part of the taskforce as well as Margaret Chin. Of  
22 course, Laura Popa [sp?], Eric Burnstein [sp?], James  
23 Saboodi [sp?], Johnathon Shot [sp?], and Amanda Zarr  
24 [sp?] from my office for really working tirelessly  
25 this year to make these taskforce happen. And APS,

1 just so everyone knows, is a division of HRA, and  
2 it's that safety net I just talked about for the  
3 abused, neglected and exploited adults, providing  
4 them with the supportive services necessary to live  
5 safe and independent lives. APS has faced criticism  
6 over the last decade. It's become clear that reform  
7 is necessary from the overworked and burdened case  
8 load that APS is faced with. After spending two  
9 decades as an attorney working hand in hand in this  
10 system, there was a need, especially from  
11 guardianship proceedings. This was one of the areas  
12 we were determined to focus on, was financial elder  
13 abuse of our seniors. Today, we're voting out  
14 Resolution 748A, legislation that will help fight  
15 financial exploitation of older adults by requiring  
16 banking organizations to provide at a minimum the  
17 immediately preceding six months of financial  
18 documents following a request from an authorized  
19 government agency for financial documents. As New  
20 York City senior population continues to grow, too  
21 many of our older New Yorkers find themselves  
22 neglected, exploited and abused. This resolution  
23 will go a long way in addressing that escalating  
24 problem. And as we heard from our District Attorneys  
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and from those who know, senior financial elder abuse is one of the fastest, unfortunately, growing areas of crime. Once again, thank you to our great Chair, Margaret Chin, for holding this hearing quickly and at the last minute, and I'll actually thank all of our participants in the taskforce for their ongoing time and efforts, and it will be continued, and it's a taskforce that we'll see more things to come. Thank you all my fellow Council Members and thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Can we have the clerk call the vote?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew DeStefano [sp?], Committee on Aging roll call on Resolution 748A. Council Member Chin?

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: I vote aye, and please also add my name to the resolution. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye, and if my name is not on it, it's not, please add it to the resolution.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I'm going to make it three in a row. Please add my name to this

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resolution. It's very timely and important, and I  
vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the  
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
the resolution has been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Do we need to keep the-  
-okay, we will keep the vote open for the next 20  
minutes. Yes, thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on Aging,  
continuation of the roll call on Resolution 748A.  
Council Member Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a final vote of 5 in  
the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
abstentions, the resolution has been adopted.

[PAUSE]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on Aging  
further continuation of the roll call for Resolution  
748A. Council Member Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The revised final vote to approve Resolution 748A now stands at 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you to everyone. The hearing is adjourned.

[gavel]



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 July 23, 2015