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COMMITTEE ON AGING

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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November 25, 2025
Start: 11:12 a.m.
Recess: 11:19 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 2

B E F O R E: Crystal Hudson, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chris Banks
Darlene Mealy
Yusef Salaam
Lynn C. Schulman
Susan Zhuang

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Aging, recorded on
4 November 25, 2025, in Hearing Room 2 by Nazly
5 Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
8 Committee on Aging.

9 At this time, can everybody please
10 silence your cellphones, and nobody is to approach
11 the dais.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: [GAVEL] Good morning,
14 everyone. I'm Council Member Crystal Hudson, Chair of
15 the Committee on Aging. My pronouns are she/her. We
16 are joined by Council Members Salaam, Schulman,
17 Banks, and Zhuang.

18 Today, the Committee will consider the
19 following resolutions calling for State and Federal
20 actions to support our city's older adults. Proposed
21 Resolution Number 106-A and Resolutions 452 and 850,
22 sponsored by myself, and Resolution 985 sponsored by
23 Speaker Adams.

24 Proposed Resolution 106-A calls on New
25 York State to expand eligibility for the Disability

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2 Rent Increase Exemption, or DRIE. DRIE was created to
3 help eligible New Yorkers living with disabilities
4 remain in affordable housing by freezing their rent
5 at its rate upon enrollment and exempting them from
6 future rent increases. Unfortunately, State law sets
7 strict eligibility requirements for DRIE. To qualify,
8 the individual living with a disability must be the
9 head of household. This requirement excludes an
10 estimated 7,400 households where a family member has
11 a disability but is not the head of household. There
12 is no good reason for this distinction. At a time
13 when our city faces a massive housing and
14 affordability crisis, the Legislature must pass A-
15 2367 and S-3563 to cut this red tape and help
16 families stay in their homes.

17 Resolution 985 by Speaker Adams, of which
18 I'm a proud co-prime sponsor, builds on this call for
19 SCRIE and DRIE reform. This resolution calls on the
20 New York State Assembly to pass and the Governor to
21 sign S-2534 and A-7851, which retroactively freezes
22 the rent at which a SCRIE and DRIE enrollee pays at
23 the level it was when they first became eligible or
24 at the level it was two years before they entered the
25 program given that entrance into the program occurred

2 more than two years after they first became eligible.
3 This legislation would strengthen critical rent
4 protections for low-income older adults and people
5 with disabilities, ensuring they are not penalized
6 for delays in learning about or applying to SCRIE or
7 DRIE. Freezing rent at the level it was when the
8 individuals first became eligible, not when they
9 happened to enroll, would fix a longstanding issue
10 that has allowed vulnerable tenants to fall into
11 deeper rent burden. In a city where more than half of
12 older renters already spend over 30 percent of their
13 income on housing, this measure is a matter of
14 fairness, stability, and dignity for those aging and
15 living with disabilities in New York City.

16 My next Resolution, Resolution 452, calls
17 on the Federal Government to pass legislation to
18 lower the age of eligibility for Older Americans
19 Act's support services and programs from 60 to 45
20 years for individuals living with HIV. Adults living
21 with HIV can experience significantly earlier older
22 age-related health conditions, including
23 cardiovascular disease, cancers, osteoporosis, and
24 chronic inflammation linked to decline of the immune
25 system. As a result, many individuals living with HIV

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2 in New York City face functional limitations, social
3 isolation, housing instability, and caregiver needs
4 well before the age of 60 but are currently barred
5 from accessing most Older Americans Act's services.
6 This is because OAA eligibility threshold has not
7 been updated since the 1960s. With over 57 percent of
8 New Yorkers living with HIV no over age 50 and LGBTQ-
9 plus service providers reporting rising demand for
10 food assistance, mental health supports, and case
11 management among adults in their mid-40s to mid-50s,
12 the mismatch between OAA eligibility and the
13 realities of HIV-related aging has become
14 increasingly stark. By lowering the age of
15 eligibility for OAA-supported services, older adults
16 living with HIV can enjoy a higher quality of life
17 and access critical services to age in place with
18 dignity.

19 My final Resolution being considered
20 today, Resolution 850, calls on the Federal
21 Government to expand Medicare to include long-term
22 services and supports for older adults and
23 individuals living with disabilities. This federal
24 action would close one of the most glaring gaps in
25 our country's aging and disability policy, ensuring

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2 that older adults and people with disabilities can
3 receive essential daily care without facing financial
4 ruin or relying on overburdened family caregivers.

5 Shifting the responsibility for long-term care from
6 the patchwork of State Medicaid programs to a
7 universal Federal framework would promote equity,
8 consistency, and dignity. For New York City's growing
9 older population, it would mean greater independence,
10 reduced strain on families, and the ability to age
11 safely at home rather than in institutional settings.

12 Thank you to my Colleagues for joining me
13 for today's vote.

14 I want to conclude by thanking my Staff,
15 Andrew Wright and Elika Ruintan and the Committee
16 Staff, Chloë Rivera, Christopher Pepe, and Saiyemul
17 Hamid.

18 I'll now turn it over to the Clerk to
19 call the roll.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

21 Matthew DiStefano, Committee Clerk. Committee on
22 Aging, roll call vote. All items are coupled.

23 Chair Hudson.

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2 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Aye. And I'd also
3 like to acknowledge that we're joined by Council
4 Member Mealy.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Lee.
6 Mealy.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my
8 vote?

9 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just want to
11 thank you, Chair Hudson, for all this great
12 legislation and our Colleagues. I wish I would've
13 thought about it with the SCRIE and DRIE. Our seniors
14 do apply and it doesn't kick in to two years later,
15 and that's two years that the could've had extra
16 money. So, I want to say I vote aye on all of this
17 great legislation, and I want to thank my seniors.
18 They're on a trip right now at a movie. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you so much,
20 Council Member.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
22 Schulman.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Banks.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye, and
3 congratulations to the sponsors.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
5 Salaam.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye on all.
7 Congratulations.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
9 Zhuang.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye on all. Thank
11 you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: By a
13 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
14 and no abstentions, the items have been adopted.

15 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you so much.
16 This hearing is adjourned. [GAVEL]

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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 January 16, 2026