

COMMITTEE ON AGING

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

----- X

June 6, 2024
Start: 9:22 a.m.
Recess: 9:29 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Crystal Hudson, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chris Banks
Linda Lee
Lynn C. Schulman
Susan Zhuang

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Gale A. Brewer

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Check, check, mic check
3 on the Committee on Aging located in the Chambers,
4 recorded on June 6, 2024, by Patrick Kurzyna. Check,
5 check.

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 cell phones.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you. [GAVEL]
13 Good morning, and welcome to today's Aging Committee
14 vote. I'm Council Member Crystal Hudson, Committee
15 Chair, and my pronouns are she, her.

16 Shortly, the Committee will vote on
17 Resolution 232, sponsored by Council Member Gale
18 Brewer, which calls on the New York State Legislature
19 to pass and the Governor to sign S-2960/A-5741 to
20 provide for annual adjustment of the maximum income
21 threshold eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent
22 Increase Exemption, or SCRIE, Disability Rent
23 Increase Exemption, DRIE, Senior Citizen Homeowners
24 Exemption, SCHE, and Disabled Homeowners Exemption,
25 DHE, by any increase in the Consumer Price Index.

2 SCRIE, DRIE, SCHE, and DHE are vital rental
3 assistance and homeowner assistance programs, and the
4 relief they provide can often mean the difference
5 between an older adult remaining in their home and
6 being forced to move out due to unsustainable costs.
7 However, we must ensure that the eligibility
8 requirements for these programs keep up with the
9 rising cost of living that New Yorkers are
10 experiencing. In passing Resolution 232, this
11 Committee is sending a strong message to our friends
12 in the State Legislature that our City's older adults
13 need help now. Passing S-2960 and A-5741 will ensure
14 that more older adults are eligible for these
15 exemptions and can receive relief in order to remain
16 in their homes and age in place with dignity. I'm
17 proud to co-sponsor this resolution and want to thank
18 Council Member Brewer for her advocacy on this issue.
19 Thank you to my Colleagues and Aging Committee
20 Members. I would also like to thank my Staff, Casie
21 Addison and Andrew Wright, and Aging Committee Staff,
22 Christopher Pepe, Chloe Rivera, Julia Haramis, and
23 Saiyemul Hamid.

2 I'd like to acknowledge that we're joined
3 today by Council Members Lee, Schulman, Brewer, and
4 Zhuang.

5 I'm now going to turn it over to Council
6 Member Brewer for remarks.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
8 much, Chair Hudson, and I want to indicate that
9 Resolution 232 is really important, and I appreciate
10 the very timely discussion of it because the session
11 in Albany is about to end, and they would like to
12 hear from us. As you described what they would do, I
13 would like to just add that Social Security benefits
14 increase to match cost of living, but the SCRIE,
15 DRIE, and others do not that were mentioned earlier.
16 The income thresholds of all these programs do not
17 increase to match the cost of living, and they should
18 but, when they don't, that puts older adults and
19 people with disabilities at risk to lose access to
20 these programs as increases in Social Security raise
21 their incomes above the set thresholds. I hope that
22 this will increase the number of households in New
23 York City receiving SCRIE, DRIE, and other benefits.
24 Right now, there are about 70,000-plus. If the
25 numbers work out, it'll be over 61,000 that would be

2 able to get these benefits as opposed to those who
3 make 50,000, it would go to 61,000. I want to thank
4 Hally Chu in particular. She used to work for me when
5 I was Borough President. She's now in the office of
6 New York State Senator Brian Kavanaugh, who also
7 worked for me, and they have been working to move the
8 State bill forward, and I want to thank both of them,
9 and thank you very much. This is a really important
10 issue for our older adults in New York City.

11 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: It is indeed. Thank
12 you so much, Council Member.

13 I'll now turn it over to the Clerk to
14 call the roll.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
16 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
17 Roll call vote Committee on Aging on Resolution 232.
18 Chair Hudson.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Meely.
23 Schulman.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye, and
25 congratulations to Council Member Brewer.

1 COMMITTEE ON AGING

6

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Banks.
3 Salam. Zhuang.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye,
5 congratulations.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
7 vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the
8 negative, and no abstentions, the Resolution has been
9 adopted by the Committee.

10 The roll will be held open at request of
11 the Chair.

12 Continuation roll call Committee on
13 Aging, Resolution 232. Council Member Banks.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
16 you. With that, the vote is now five in the
17 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
18 abstentions.

19 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you. We're now
20 adjourned. [GAVEL]

21

22

23

24

25

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 4, 2024