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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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May 13, 2014
Start: 11:13 a.m.
Recess: 11:21 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E: MARGARET S. CHIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO (absent)
- KAREN KOSLOWITZ
- DEBORAH L. ROSE
- CHAIM M. DEUTSCH
- MARK TREYGER
- PAUL A. VALLONE

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2 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Good Morning. I am
3 Margaret Chin, Chair of the Aging Committee. We
4 are here today to vote on two measures that we
5 heard with the Finance Committee earlier this
6 month. Int. 243-A, which would increase the income
7 threshold for SCRIE from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for the
8 next two years and Reso. 185, which support the
9 Senate bill 1218 and the Assembly bills 1790 by
10 Assembly Member Joel Millman and Senator Bill
11 Perkins.

12 Legislation that would automatically
13 link future increases in SCRIE to the consumer
14 price index. During our hearing, with Finance, we
15 heard resounding support for both of these
16 measures. But also, many reminders that the work
17 surrounding SCRIE is not done. The State can do
18 much more to improve the SCRIE program, the least
19 of which, would be extending this income threshold,
20 increased beyond 2016. I can assure the City
21 seniors that this Committee and the Council will do
22 all that we can to make sure that the thousands of
23 seniors that will be added to the SCRIE program in
24 July, won't face losing those benefits in just a
25 few years.

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2 I again, want to thank my colleagues,
3 Council Member Ferraris(sp?), Williams and
4 Koslowitz, who co-sponsored these pieces of
5 legislation with me, and all the Aging Committee
6 members that have signed onto to the bill and
7 resolution. I committed to addressing the many
8 housing challenges that our seniors face, and I am
9 proud that the Committee is taking the first, of
10 what I hope, are many steps towards ensuring that
11 all seniors have access to stable and affordable
12 housing.

13 Would any of the co-sponsors like to
14 make a statement, before we vote?

15 Council Member Koslowitz?

16 (background noise)

17 MS. KOSLOWITZ: Thank you, Madam
18 Chair. I think this is a wonderful thing that is
19 happening today. I know that my office has gotten
20 so many calls from people that were crying that
21 they... their... that they were losing their SCRIE
22 because of their social security went up a little
23 bit, and by minute numbers. And, this will help
24 all of them that have called my office, and many,
25 many that haven't called my office, or have called

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2 the offices of my colleagues. This is a great day.
3 We have to make sure it's consistent and keeps
4 going after the two years. We have to make sure
5 this is ongoing. So, we have to keep our eye on
6 this. And, I also want to thank the Chair for
7 scheduling the meeting earlier to help me out.
8 Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you, Council
10 member. You're welcome.

11 Any other council members want to say
12 anything, before we...

13 Council Member, Vallone?

14 MR. VALLONE: I just want to thank our
15 Chair for your leadership on this. We wouldn't
16 have been able to get this quickly today without
17 your guidance. And, it is critical to get this
18 from \$29,000 to \$50,000, and I stand with you on
19 concern and post 2016. So, we will be vigilant
20 then, too.

21 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Council Member, Rose?

22 MS. ROSE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
23 want to thank the sponsors of these bills because,
24 I too, in my district, I have many seniors who have
25 suffered because of the cap remaining at \$29,000

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2 for so long. And, in fact, just last night I as
3 visited by one of those seniors, and, um, she
4 didn't know about this legislation. And, she had
5 come in, once again, to complain and to say that
6 she had been added to a waiting list for a year and
7 a half, but they were going to put her on at the
8 market rate because she was over the guidelines.
9 And, so, there is going to be a need to inform
10 landlords that this... there has been this change, so
11 that our seniors will not continue to suffer. I am
12 very appreciative to all of the sponsors for this
13 legislation. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you, Council
15 Member, Rose.

16 I believe we are all looking forward to
17 getting the bill implemented, starting July 1st.
18 And, during the hearing, with the Finance
19 Committee, the Department of Finance representative
20 that was there, told us that they were going to
21 reach out to people who applied for SCRIE, and was
22 rejected because their income was over. So, I
23 think that is a great first step, but I think we
24 are going to have a lot to do in terms of working
25 together, to make sure that every senior and their

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2 families in the City know that the bill has passed.
3 And, so we need to talk about how to do the
4 outreach. And, I also really want to thank our
5 speaker because it's really so exciting that we can
6 get legislation passed so quickly. So, it's a new
7 day.

8 So, will the Clerk please call the
9 roll?

10 CLERK: Kevin Pin, Committee Clerk.
11 Roll call on the Committee on Aging. Intro.243-A,
12 Reso.185.

13 Council Member Chin?

14 COUNCILPERSON CHIN: I vote aye. Thank
15 you.

16 CLERK: Koslowitz?

17 MS. KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

18 CLERK: Rose?

19 MS. ROSE: Aye.

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21 CLERK: Vallone?

22 MR. VALLONE: Aye.

23 CLERK: I have four in the
24 affirmative, zero negative, no abstentions, the
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2 onset is adapted. Members, please sign the
3 Committee reports.

4 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: We are going to keep
5 the roll open, I guess, for another ten - fifteen
6 minutes, to see if the other council member makes
7 it.

8 And, I also wanted to thank our
9 Committee staff, Kelly Taylor, our counselor...
10 council, and Dehaney(sp?) [phonetic] Supra
11 Aliv(sp?) [phonetic] 00:07:52, Financial Analysts,
12 for really helping to persist though. Thank you.

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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. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



Date 05/19/2014