

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room  
14th 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

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Donna Corrado, Commission  
NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA)

Caryn Resnick, Deputy Commissioner  
External Affairs  
NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA)

Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford, President  
New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM)

Shauneequa Owusu,  
Project Manager of the Age-Friendly  
Neighborhoods Initiative  
New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM)]

Gale Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President

Michael Lambert, Executive Director Bedford-  
Stuyvesant Gateway Business Improvement  
District (BID)  
Co-Chairman, New York City BID Association

Larissa Green, Program Manager of the  
Coalition for the Improvement of Bed-Stuy

Helene Collier, Policy Director  
Local Initiatives Corporation's New York  
City Office (LISC)

Jerry Maltz, Architect  
Design for Aging Committee  
American Institute of Architects



[sound check]

[gavel]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet please.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Good afternoon. I'm Council Member Margaret Chin, Chair of the Aging Committee. We are very excited to be joined today by our speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito as well as my colleague on the Aging Committee Council Member Vallone. Today, we're here to look at Age Friendly New York City Aging Improving District now being known as Age Friendly Neighborhoods. Currently, there are 1.4 million New Yorkers over the age of 60. That's over 17% of the city's population. Seniors are the city's fastest growing population, and that population is expected to double by 2030, constituting 20% of the total population. Seniors bring significant economic benefits to communities by shopping at local stores, eating at local restaurants, and participating in local cultural events. Therefore, it is very important that our city is designed to be friendly to seniors so that New Yorkers can age comfortably in place.

Accessibility and mobility challenges can discourage seniors from actively participating in the

daily life of the community. According to the AARP, nearly 26% of New Yorkers 50 years or older live with a disability, and 13% have difficulty going out of their homes. Age friendly neighborhoods enable community leaders to get ideas directly from seniors about how to improve their day-to-day lives in their neighborhood. Their input is essential in crafting the initiative that improves the livability of their communities because they know the challenges and needs that are unique to where they live. Across the city, we have seen this program result in great access to public space, businesses, and recreational and cultural institutions.

We look forward to continuing our partnership the New York Academy of medicine to expand this initiative. This year the Council has allocated funds for ten new Age-Friendly Districts. Some of us have also allocated discretionary funds to begin the process in our district. I hope that today will be the beginning of a more robust conversation with our partners, community leaders, and advocates on how we can successfully develop, and expand Age-Friendly Neighborhoods for seniors in every district in the city by 2018. We will continue to follow up

so that communities can learn from one another to create an age-friendly city for all New Yorkers and for all seniors. I'd like to thank the Commissioner who is here today and all the advocates. So before start, I'd like our Speaker to give some opening remarks because she has one of those districts.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes. Thank you Chair, and to Chair Vallone as well. Good afternoon. I'm Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker of the New York City Council. First of all, I want to thank my colleagues, Council Member and Chair Margaret Chin and members of the Committee on Aging for holding this hearing on such an important issue. I want to thank our age-friendly partners in particular the Department for the Aging and the New York Academy of Medicine. And finally, I want to thank the advocates and community organizations and members of the public that are here today.

So today, we are going to hear testimony on an initiative that is near and dear to me. Our senior community is vital to the life of New York City. Seniors bring cultural diversity that is enhanced by their rich experiences, and they have helped shape and build the city we live in today. It

is important that we ensure that New York's assets including our streets and parks, our subways and buses, our cultural institutions, and local businesses are accessible to all New Yorkers as they age in their communities.

Last week I was proud to announce that the City Council and the New York Academy of Medicine will be launching ten age-friendly neighborhoods. The expansion of the Age-Friendly Neighborhood Initiative is a crucial step in making New York City a better place for seniors by focusing on the needs unique to each neighborhood. The process begins by holding discussions with, and hearing ideas from the very seniors who experience challenges on a daily basis. Leaders from across the community then work together to address local concerns with local solutions. This is truly participatory democracy at its finest. And I've personally seen the incredible value of this work in my own district.

In 2010, I began work with NYAM, the Academy of Medicine with local business advocates. I'm sorry local businesses, advocates, and community-based organizations in establishing the first aging improvement district in East Harlem. And I have

Diana Ella [sp?] from my office is here, who was instrumental and continues to be instrumental in all our age-friendly work. As we spoke with seniors throughout my community together, we identified ideas and solutions for them to live safe, active, and vibrant lives in the neighborhood in which they have spent much of their lifetime.

After hearing that seniors wanted dedicated pool hours and space for fun and exercise, we created the special hours for seniors at Thomas Jefferson Park Pool, which is now a citywide initiative. We have also increased seating at community businesses, and improved access and programming for seniors by local restaurants, museums, and libraries. These innovations and improvements have no doubt made for a more accessible age-friendly environment for our seniors.

So as we prepare to establish age-friendly neighborhoods in ten new districts, and with our commitment to bringing age-friendly initiatives to all 51 Council Districts by 2018, I look forward to hearing from our partners at DFTA and the New York Academy of Medicine, advocates and community-based



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2 organizations on how we move this initiative forward.

3 So thank you very much.

4 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you, Speaker.

5 First, we would like to invite up Commissioner Donna

6 Corrado, and also the representative from the New

7 York Academy of Medicine.

8 [Pause]

9 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Before we start we're

10 going to ask the Committee Counsel, Eric Bernstein to

11 administer the oath.

12 COUNSEL BERNSTEIN: Can you all raise

13 your right hand, please? Do you affirm to tell the

14 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in

15 your testimony before this committee, and to respond

16 honestly to Council Member questions?

17 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: [off mic] I do.

18 [Pause]

19 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Good afternoon,

20 Speaker--

21 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Please identify--

22 COMMISSIONER CORRADO: [interposing] Okay.

23 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: --yourself before you

24 speak. Thanks.

25

COMMISSIONER CORRADO: Good afternoon Speaker Mark-Viverito, Chairperson Chin, Council Members Vallone and Rosenthal. I am Donna Corrado, Commission of the New York City Department for the Aging, and I am joined today by Caryn Resnick, Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs, and Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford, President of the New York Academy of Medicine. Thank you for inviting us to testify about Age-Friendly New York City. I will begin by providing an overview of Age-Friendly New York City, and NYAM will discuss the Age-Friendly New York City Aging Improvement Neighborhoods.

According to the U.S. Census data as mentioned by Chair Chin, New York City's population of adults age 65 and older is expected to double between 2010 and 20130. To prepare the city for this aging boom, Age-Friendly New York City was launched as a collaborative initiative by the Bloomberg Administration, the New York City Council and the New York Academy of Medicine.

Since the fall of 2007, Age-Friendly New York City has been working to address this trend, and to meet the challenges of the growing older people in New York City. The goals of Age-Friendly are to

access the city's responsiveness to the needs of older New Yorkers, to develop recommendations and implement strategies that allow New York to sustain and enhance its status as an age-friendly city. Age Friendly builds on the work of the World Health Organization's Global Age-Friendly Cities Initiative, which engaged older adults and other stakeholders in cities around the world in identifying the core components and features of an age-friendly city.

Using the Global Age-Friendly Cities framework, the City and NYAM conducted a comprehensive assessment of the age-friendliness of New York City. Throughout 2008 and 2009 the City and NYAM engaged older New Yorkers, city agencies, and leaders from the private non-profit and academic sectors to learn how the city could improve the quality of life for seniors. In August of 2009, in response to their findings, the City announced 59 initiatives to make New York City more age friendly. The initiatives focus on four key areas: Community and civic participation, housing, public spaces, transportation, health, and social services. Excuse me.

Age-Friendly New York City has been recognized globally. In July 2010, the World Health Organization named New York City the First Age-Friendly City under its new certification process. The 59 age-friendly initiatives are the result of a public-private partnerships that include not only government initiatives, but also private and non-profit ones. I will highlight a number of the initiatives led by city agencies. These initiatives emerge from interagency collaboration to identify and implement new strategies and government operations using an age-friendly lens.

The first one was Innovative Senior Centers, and they are a cornerstone of Age-Friendly New York City. Innovative Centers was successfully launched throughout the city in 2012 and 2013. Innovative Centers provide enhanced programming including robust health and wellness programs, arts, and cultural activities and technological and volunteer opportunities. A second round of Innovative Centers received contract awards this year resulting in a total of 16 centers in the DFTA Senior Center Network.

## Naturally Occurring Retirement

Communities are residential locations, single buildings, housing developments, or clusters of buildings within a neighborhood that are neither age-restricted nor built for seniors. Over time, however, they have become home to significant concentrations of seniors and older adults. NORCs programs provide supportive environments that allow seniors independence as they age in place. They engage residents and facilitate linkages and respond to their needs. All NORCs furnish case management for homebound and non-homebound seniors. They offer assistance with public benefits, and provide healthcare management by medical professionals. Other programs include recreational trips, exercise classes art workshops, DFTA funds 28 NORCs citywide.

The SPARC Program, which stands for Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide. The Seniors Parting with Artists Citywide known as SPARC Program places artists in residents at DFTA sponsored senior centers. Artists receive a stipend and materials budget, and access to a workspace in the centers in exchange for providing seniors with interactive art activities. Resident artists also

produce public program events at the senior centers to share the work created by SPARC participants with the local community. SPARC artists have created cultural programs including a ukulele orchestra in Brooklyn, a Baba dance group in the Bronx, Japanese calligraphy classes in Staten Island, photography workshops in Queens, and Shakespeare performances in Manhattan.

The Silver Alert. Silver Alert was created through the enactment of the first local law generated from Age-Friendly New York City Initiative. New York City became one of the first municipalities in the nation to implement this program. DFTA, the New York City Police Department, the New York City Council partnered on passing this legislation for a public notification system that aids police in search for missing older persons with dementia. When a senior with a cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's Disease is reported missing and deemed to be in imminent danger of physical injury or death, the NYPD initiates this program. An alert is broadcast throughout the city and to media outlets, community organizations, senior service providers and

others allowing the public to assist in searching for the missing senior.

Another initiative is Safe Streets for Seniors. Through Safe Streets for Seniors, New York City Department of Transportation implements safety improvements in 25 areas identified as having an above-rate of senior pedestrian fatalities and injuries. Typical improvements include extending pedestrian crossing times at crosswalks; adding countdown clocks; altering curbs and sidewalks; restricting vehicle turns and narrowing roadways. Since the program began, senior pedestrian fatalities have decreased 21% citywide.

Recognizing that falls continue to be a major cause of fatal injuries in the older population, DFTA and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene convened the New York City Falls Prevention Coalition. Members of the Coalition represent various sectors including healthcare, social service, academia, advocacy, and government. The Coalition launched a Falls Prevention website, developed falls prevention education and programming; completed a falls survey of senior center

participants; and created a home safety checklist to address fall hazards in seniors' homes.

Market Ride. Market Ride uses New York City Department of Education school buses during off hours to provide transportation for DFTA senior center participants and NORC participants, trips to supermarkets, street markets, and recreational activities. The goal of this program is to increase access for seniors to healthy foods and cultural opportunities. Since October of 2012, there have been more than 100 Market Ride trips with nearly 3,000 seniors participating.

In January of 2010, the City joined NYAM to seat the Age-Friendly New York City Commission. The commission was comprised of leaders in business, education, civic, non-profit and other sectors. Members of the commission were charged with making recommendations on how the city might partner with these sectors and leverage their resources to enhance age-friendly efforts. This Administration is committed to building on the successes of Age-Friendly New York City and looks forward to working with the New York City Council and NYAM as we embark on the next phase of this initiative.



At present, we are working together reseating the Age-Friendly New York City Commission, which is expected to commence meeting in early 2015. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify on Age-Friendly New York City. I applaud the leadership of the Speaker, and the Chairperson Chin in ensuring that New York City maintains its status as one of the most age-friendly cities in the world. I look forward to continuing this partnership with the New York City and NYAM in these efforts, and I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Is NYAM ready to give your presentation?

JO BOUFFORD: [off mic] We are.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Okay. We've been joined by Council Member Deutsch. Okay, welcome.

JO BOUFFORD: [off mic] Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and members of the--

COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic] Turn on your microphone please.

JO BOUFFORD: [off mic] Oh, I'm sorry. Sorry about that. Thank you, I'll start over. Madam

Chair and Madam Speaker and members Vallone and Rosenthal, we're very delighted to be here today. My name is Jo Boufford, and I'm the President of the New York Academy of Medicine. A word about NYAM. We have been advancing the health of people in the city since 1847. We're an independent non-profit organization that really addresses the health challenges facing the world's urban populations through research and evaluation, education, policy advocacy, and community engagement. Our core priorities include fostering environments that support healthy aging, strengthening systems that prevent disease and promote the public's health, and working to eliminate health disparities. And preserving and promoting the history of medicine and public health.

So my remarks will be happily I think what we're seeing here today is such an incredibly close and invaluable partnership certainly with the Department for the Aging Commission Corrado, Deputy Commissioner Resnick, and colleagues from the Council. So I'm going to try to cut my remarks a little bit short so I don't repeat what other people have said. And my colleague Shaunequa Owusu to my

right as Project Manager for the Age-Friendly Neighborhoods Initiative will presenting a Power Point, which I think will get into some of the details that I believe the hearing is designed to explore.

So, as we have heard, one of the questions that we were asked early on in 2007 is why get involved in healthy aging? And I think we've heard the answer. Part of it is the incredible number of people over 60 in New York City and, in fact, within the next 15 years there will be more people over 60 living in New York than school children, which is kind of hard to imagine. And the other really important characteristic of New York's aging population is they will probably be the most diverse older population certainly in the United States if not in the world. So the issues of dealing with multi-cultural diverse population of older persons is a uniquely New York challenge.

In recognition of this trend, as you've heard, we established a trend in New York City in 2007 in partnership with the Office of the Mayor, and the City Council. And the goal being to shift the paradigm in our thinking about aging from what we

normally hear in the United States that it's the cost of car, and the Social Security system. We're going to drown all of our social networks to say, Look, we have a positive public health victory really that people are living to older ages. And they have so much to give out and so much to contribute that we need to create environments in which they can stay active and involved for as long as they wish to do so.

One of the important parts of the Age-Friendly Initiative was the Age-Friendly Commissions which has been a public-private partnership with leaders really from industries, academia organizations, CDOs and advocacy groups across the city who have all been dedicated to making the city a better place for older adults. We're delighted, as Commissioner Corrado mentioned that the new Commission is being seated under the new Mayor, and in partnership with the Council. And the other components of the Age-Friendly New York City has really been the development of Aging Improvement District, which now Age-Friendly Neighborhoods will continue.

Over the past seven years, New York has been internally recognized, and another award that was for recognizing our initiative was in the International Federation on Aging. In Istanbul the New York City Age-Friendly Initiative was recognized as the most innovative in the world last year. So we're very proud of that. And I think it's innovative because of the partnerships in this room that have really made it possible, and that's made us - made it much more likely that the changes that are needed to move citywide will happen.

We also want to thank the New York City Council for its continuous support of Age-Friendly New York City, and especially for its renewed commitment through the recent \$400,000 allocation for the New Age-Friendly Neighborhoods Initiative. From the Age-Friendly New York City's inception, older adults have been in charge in a sense. They've said that New York City is a city of neighborhoods. That they really care much and know a lot about the immediate area in which they live. And by far, most everyone wants to age in New York. They really don't like to leave the elderly people who had gone-- Who left New York and come back, and as one of the seniors said

they kissed the ground when they got off the airplane. Because it was a relief to be home again. So I think the challenge for all of us is really creating these solutions, and hearing what older people say about what makes it harder or easier for them to live in their neighborhoods.

As the Speaker said, in March of 2010, she was a pioneer. We partnered with her to pilot the first Aging Improvement District in East Harlem, and the age friendliness of this work really does begin with consultations with older adults who are clearly the experts on their own lives. And these conversations then help you to establish the goals and activities for that Aging Improvement District and an advisory council of leaders from that community helped steer the initiative, and draw up plans, goals, and implementation agenda.

These Aging Improving Districts, the initial ones in East Harlem on the Upper West Side in Bedford-Stuyvesant have in a sense been the pilots to help test ideas, develop toolkits, and really learn how to do this most effectively. Some of the details you're going to be hearing from my colleague in a moment. And just as highlights, one of these

includes the City Bench Program, which has installed over 1,000 sidewalk benches across the city. Senior Swim, which was mentioned and started in East Harlem, but is now offering senior only swim times at 16 public pools citywide. And the Age-Friendly Local Business Initiative, which has engaged over 1,000 small businesses in learning how to better attract and serve older customers. And I do want to also mention the initial Aging Improvement District in Pelham Parkway. I don't want to leave them out of the list as pilots.

So, the Age-Friendly Neighborhoods Initiative is in effect expanding on this base of Aging Improvement Districts to ten additional communities. And will maintain the same model and style of commitment to local and older adults and their stakeholders and to collaboratively leverage the strengths of the community to maximize the social and economic participation of older residents. And these efforts in East Harlem, the Upper West Side, Bed-Stuy and Pelham would not have been possible without the support of City Council Members and their dedicated staff. And this new initiative in Fiscal

Year 2015 demonstrates a renewed commitment, which we're delighted to be a part of with our partners.

The critical details will be presented in a moment. Just let me end by saying that the Speaker's recent commitment to expanding Age-Friendly to all 51 districts by 2018 is really a testament to the work that has been done, the recognition of the growing population of older adults, and the desire to have them involved as active and committed contributing members of the City going forward. So we're delighted to work with DFTA, with the City Council and the Mayor's Office in creating these innovations that will improve the day-to-day lives of our city's adults. And as we've learned from other initiatives like this improve the lives I think as the Speaker or as the Chair said of all New Yorkers. So I thank you for this opportunity, and let me pass the microphone over to Shauneequa Owusu, who is the Project Manager of the Age-Friendly Neighborhoods Initiative, to take you through a little bit of details as background.

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Shauneequa Owusu, and I'm a Project Manager with the New York Academy of



Medicine. It's a pleasure to speak with you today. My comments to be very brief. So an Aging Improvement District is a model that brings forth concerns and suggestions of older adults in a neighborhood to collectively strategize to make the neighborhood's economic and civic life more inclusive of older adults. This work has for quite some time been funded by the New York City Council, and we look forward to working with the Council to expand it to ten additional communities across all five boroughs.

And as Dr. Boufford mentioned, we maintain the commitment to engage older adults and stakeholders to collaboratively come up with plans for each neighborhood. As you will see, the first AID was established in 2010. Subsequently in 2011, we established another one in the Upper West Side in 2012 in Bedford-Stuyvesant as well as in Pelham Bay Park-- In Pelham Parkway, rather.

I'm just going to go through a few highlights of each of each of the pilots. Some of the early successes included within East Harlem. As the Speaker mentioned from the outset of this hearing was the City Bench Program. So there are over 30 benches that have been placed around East Harlem as

per the advice and the consultations with older adults that live in that community. We have worked together collaboratively to improve laundry access in public housing specifically in the Corsi Houses. Senior Swim was piloted in East Harlem. So now we're in 16 different pools across the city.

In the Upper West Side this work started under former Council Member Brewer and now continues under Council Member Rosenthal. They emphasize there was ongoing food programs. There is a great Grow Green Well Initiative thinking about how to box food and it's actually a CSA, if you will, that is formulated for older people. So folks about the actual weight. It's about eight pounds and all of these things really matter because if you're walking around it's really heavy to carry. So the whole program is completely tailored for them.

In addition to that, there were these lovely grocery bags that were created. These are the local grocery stores in the Upper West Side. They're very, very popular actually for the AID. A thousand copies were gone in the first week of implementation. And Bedford-Stuyvesant. This work began under Council Member Van Bramer [sic] and continues under

Council Member Cornegy. I should indicate here that the model here is a little bit different from the other Aging Improvement Districts in that this one is also funded privately by the Samuels Foundation. We do this work collaboratively in partnership with the local LISC, as well. And the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford-Stuyvesant, which really is the base of the work, and they are here today, and they will talk a little bit more about the successes that they've had over the past couple of years.

The rollout of the Age-Friendly Neighborhoods Initiative. Here's the criteria that we looked at in order to-- In collaboration with the City Council to think about which communities we would go to first. So we were looking at the percentage of older adults or people over 60 living in poverty; those over 60 living alone; those over 60 with mobility issues; where English isn't the primary language as well as the overall composition of a community district of Council District. We tried to look in terms of rolling out the work and the partnerships that we look for, we want to think about: (a) buy-in from the local council member and the capacity of that council member's office. We

really tried to encourage the presence of a BID and/or a community-based organization with a well-known community development capacity. And then, of course, an active and engaged community of older adults, which no doubt every community has that.

As mentioned prior, older adults is where we start. The consultative process is really important and intrinsic to what we do. Older people are the experts in their own lives. They generally are able to tell us what the issues are, but also have either pieces or the full solution. So after we do these consultations, we also assess the neighborhood. We're looking for what we like to call Age-Friendly Hardware. [sic] What does that mean? DFTA testified earlier there are 59 initiatives. So we're looking at the community where those 59 initiatives are intersecting. So we take account of that, and where can we bring more of those initiatives in a particular community. As well as some of the innovative projects such as the Local Business Initiative. How many businesses are already part of that 1,000 in a community, and how can we grow that number more, for example.

We hold workshops and trainings. What does that mean? Well, we want to work with the Business Improvement District. How do you engage the membership and talking to your local businesses about how to become age friendly. Training landlords particularly around safety for older adults and preparedness in an emergency. We want to make sure that older adults are connected to services and programming that traditionally-- especially those that traditionally don't think about older people. And then finally we want to track and report the impacts of what we're doing.

So we'll hold one town hall per district and one to two targeted focus groups. That will be determined by each neighborhood has different needs. Then, of course, as I explained Age-Friendly interventions and we'll do an assessment of that. Then we are identifying seat members of a local advisory committee. This committee is a cross-section of different industries and sectors as well as community-based organizations and, of course, older people themselves in a community. We develop an annual plan so that means how are we going to-- What is our strategy to meet these needs, to address

these concerns? And we do it by having this great kickoff event. Why do we do it publicly? It's to keep us accountable, and the community accountable about what we're trying to do. We deliver the workshops and trainings. As I mentioned before, organizing events and programming that will catalyze physical improvements to the built environment. Connect older adults to other opportunities, and then in terms of implementing assistance or tracking outcomes, we want to think about performance indicators to ensure equity in standards across the network. We will do this, of course, in consultation with the City Council as well as align this work with the Council's participatory budget process.

Finally, we will publicize the work and accomplishments through a newly built website. This website will roll out towards the end of the year, or early in January. And then here is our quick timeline. So we are looking to do the consultations and seat the advisory councils between now and the end of December. Through January and February of next year implementation plans, our neighborhood kickoff events as well as all of the interventions, workshops and trainings. In March we'll give a

preliminary report to the Council and then in June we would like to do a citywide event really celebrating all the success that we've had so far with older adults, of course, and then our final report to the Council. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you. We're also joined by Council Member Treyger and Council Member Arroyo. Speaker, would you like to ask some questions or comment?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Sure, and I want to-- I want to thank the New York Academy of Medicine because I know when you initially brought this concept and idea of creating these very neighborhood specific Aging Improvement Districts, it was a concept that you had. And I jumped on it because I thought it just made sense. And I really appreciate how you basically address or at least these districts address these issues on a very local level, and every community is different. So the needs that are going to emerge are different, which is one of the beauties of it. It's very tailored. So maybe you could talk a little bit. Obviously, for this to be successful, there has to be a real buy-in by the council members, a real involvement by the

council members and their offices. So maybe you could speak a little bit about on that part. Like what's the level of commitment and support that you need other than the funding, right? That you do need from local council members in order to launch an Age-Friendly Neighborhood. I think that would be good to talk about a little bit. Because you would need our assistance in order to move this forward. So maybe speaking to that a little bit.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Yeah, I'll make a couple comments and ask my colleague, who has been on the ground actually having some of these conversations. I think the original idea when we first started this and really in a sense kind of really started it with the council members. Because they're the closest to their districts, and know the districts best. And so, you can see that the success of any activity really depends on the availability to mobilize the multiple sectors. The business sector, the housing and transportation, city agencies obviously in partnership with the councilmen and councilpersons. And also community leaders, and you will know things or you wouldn't be in the positions you're in. So I think it's very important that the



councilpersons really realize that they've got to be a significant and active part for this initiative to be successful.

You know, timing is everything.

Sometimes the people are new and they may not be ready in a first tranche. We're hoping now with the announcement to move across the city in 2018, that there will be opportunities in future cycles for those councilpersons who may or may not feel that they're quite ready to do this now. But I think it's a critical goal because it's one of the key informants about the parties that really need to be at the table to make it a success.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I guess my other question with regards to what kind of internal conversations have you had in terms of addressing the needs of non-English speakers because in some communities that's a more-- I think that's a more important issue, relevant issue than others, but how are we dealing with our immigrant communities as well.

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: Can you hear me?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: So this is why we have specialized focus groups to ask older adults questions in their own native language. So depending on the community, we will do those particular sessions prior. As you know, in your district what we did is we have focus groups in not only English but in Spanish, and Chinese. I believe it was Cantonese to be exact. So that's how we go about this work. And then, in some cases we use a pretty standard protocol to look at-- that touches on the eight domains citywide as per the World Health Organization. But in addition to that, we may have conversations about issues that would be intrinsic to a particular immigrant community. And again, that's why City Council members and their staff are so incredibly important, as well as the community-based organizations that are in a particular area because they can help us identify what those issues are to have the appropriate conversation.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, and I know that I said this at the AARP forum the other day, but I guess Margaret was there, too. But the idea that I think one of the things that this does in these conversations, and in doing this kind of work

is it challenges us as a city to look some of the things-- to look more aggressively at the front end of how do we when we look at planning in terms of in the city? You know, how do we build, and looking forward to making the city more adaptable and age friendly for seniors on the front end? And not be like a reaction mode of trying to figure out how do we retrofit or make adjustments later on? I think that that's something that has been generated from this, and other conversations on the age-friendly side. So again, thank you for your effort, and I'll pass it back to the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you, Speaker. I have a question for the Commissioner. I guess in really coordinating all these efforts you talked about the innovative center, the mall, and all the programs that are really working. How is it, in terms of the administration, pulling together other agencies to really help with this effort? For example, our Department of Transportation because a lot of it is around safety. So can you talk a little bit about how are you coordinating with other city agencies to really implement this whole age-friendly program across the city.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Well, that's a very good question. Given that aging and seniors touch every single city agency in one way or another. So over the past six months we've been meeting other commissioners. And brainstorming around how their particular agency can become more senior friendly, and how we can possibly partner together to move our collective agendas forward. So that's happening organically, and I take absolutely no credit for all the good work that you've done prior to my appointment. But this certainly will continue in this administration as well.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Well, I'm going to pass it over to some of my colleagues who have some questions. Council Member Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam Chair and Madam Speaker. Good afternoon Shauneequa and Commission. Well done on the presentation. That was great. This is all exciting stuff, and I don't think you're going to find a council member that's going to say no to any of the things that we're talking about. This is really like we're all like hey, we want to be the next district.

Just some of the interesting this is that you could make it very specifically tailored to the seniors throughout the city for the district, and I think that's important. I like the examples that we're seeing. So the timeframe on that. I mean you mentioned focus groups and getting together. What would it be if District A decided to opt in and make the commitment? What would then have to be next?

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: [off mic] I think I'll give that one to Shauneequa. [sic]

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: So basically, the process is we'll work together, right, with the council member and his or her staff to establish how we will do the consultations. So, let's have one, the bit town hall where we have a conversation, and we try to get the council member to facilitate it because it's an interesting way to engage with a constituency that you already do, but just differently, right? Okay. then we decide what these new focus groups, these interesting focus groups are going to be. What are the topics, and that permeates from the conversation in the town hall. So once we do that, NYAM goes back and takes these notes, looks for emerging issues and develops a plan. We draft

that plan, and we take it back to the council member and as well as the advisory committee that we work collaboratively to seat for the neighborhood. After that, then we have the kickoff event that I mentioned earlier. What does that mean? We're bringing in media, local media. We're bringing in all the older adults that we've talked to. We're bringing in everyone from the community to say hey together we're going to do what's on this plan, and we've agreed to do this plan. And then the implementation pieces start. So it means working together with our city partners in many cases. You know, City Bench, the Countdown clocks, the changes or improvement to cracks in sidewalks. All of that, for example, requires the collaboration with the Department of Transportation that does this work.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: Uh-huh, and then after that, we just kind of repeat the process, and we report out on what those successes are. So there's a planning process. Right, a planning part of the process leads to--

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [interposing] I guess even that part of it could be tailored. I mean

I'm sure there are a lot of groups in our district that are very senior focused, and probably can give a list very quickly of things.

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: [interposing] Right. We can do this in two to three months--

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [interposing] Too bad.

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: Sorry. I apologize.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Two to three months.

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: Two to three months for all the conversations and what not, and then about six months realistically to do the implementation.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Okay, so what would you see as the-- I guess the greatest challenge going forward?

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: Well, I--

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [interposing] Not just you, but anyone?

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: Sure. One of the challenges is timing. We are working, of course, with the Council to decide what those neighborhoods, or which neighborhoods are going to be chosen. So

we're going to have a really short timeframe for this particular year. But, you know, obviously, we'll make it work, and it will all come together. Some of the other outside of time, some of it is about resources, and not necessarily monetary resources. But it requires quite a bit of manpower. It's going to require quite a bit of time from councilmatic staff as well. And what does that look like? And, of course, juggling priorities because your offices are very busy. And then, finally, you know, it's bringing people together at a table who traditionally may not talk to each other. And so that takes a little bit of time for those relationships to truly gel.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: And something I just thought about when I reached over to the speaker. I mean of the council members are going through the participatory budgeting now. There may be a way to implement certain aspects like the park benches and transportation, things that we can maybe offer during these meetings. Is that you-- Is that something that--

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: That might. As Shauneequa said, that's one of the thoughts was that



that process could feature an explanation of the various elements that might be if the data were available in that community or the preferences that might fit into the agenda for fiscal year budgeting activities.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: So, just to close, I may expedite some of those ideas and get them out because those meetings are happening like right now. So we can put them on the table as possible great ideas. That would be great. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you. Council Member Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I'm very thankful to the Speaker and my colleagues in the New York City Council for allocating funding for the New York City Academy of Medicine Age-Friendly NYC Initiative in fiscal year 2015 project. An initiative designed to enhance the lives of seniors by promoting age in everything. And Age-Friendly New York, of course, will ask that to city life.

I recently had an opportunity to coordinate an event in my district where two buses

department from local senior centers and headed to Governor's Island. The trip included a bus ride, ferry ride, and custom guided tour of the island along with activities that allowed seniors to explore the history of Governor's Island. The National Park Service and Governor's Island opened its doors free of charge, a clear demonstration of the mission, which asks city agencies, cultural and community groups to get involved in creating the city more inclusive of overbelts [sic] as well as being sensitive to their needs. First of all, can you Shauneequa, you're sitting on the side nice and quiet, but I could vouch that for when you need to advocate for our seniors, you are very vocal, and I've seen that first hand.

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: I like that. [sic]

[laughs]

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Oh, okay. So there you go. And currently, I am facing many challenges in my district for seniors, and I look forward to continuing partnering with Age-Friendly New York and the Academy of Medicine on these projects, and that would be a big test. But so far you have passed my test, and I'm very thankful to our

Speaker for bringing this to our current budget.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you. Council Member Treyger. Oh, Speaker, do you want to say something?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, but just going back to something that Council Member Vallone said when he alluded to the participatory budgeting process, and there are two things. And I want to just touch on one of the things that have been said. Any process, including this that is really seeking to get greater input on the ground from our constituents, is obviously going to take a lot of effort, right? And we know that from the level of conversations that we are engaged in through this process that leads up to the set of recommendations that seniors want in their neighborhood. But also like the participatory budgeting. But, whether or not a project that has been discussed-- And it can also help us be better legislators and better representatives because if those conversations are happening, once those recommendations come out, they can also guide us and inform us of maybe how great we allocated discretionary allocations.

And I know that that's something that was considered whether it's the pedestrian countdown clocks, which a lot of seniors want in neighborhoods. Or, whether it's security cameras, you know, that comes out of the conversations that process. It also helps us be more effective in figuring out ways how we make our decisions. So incorporating this into those existing processes like the participatory budgeting conversations, I realize is really exciting. So I appreciate that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you. Council Member Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you, Chair, for holding this very important hearing. I thank the Speaker for her major support on behalf of our seniors in our city. I commend the Commissioner and I commend everyone here for really taking an active role, and really spearheading this initiative to provide services I think are critically needed by our seniors.

Just a quick question with a couple of things. As we move towards a more age-friendly city, are we also thinking about safety in the sense where my part of the city was heavily hit by Super Storm

Sandy, and making sure that emergency preparedness is a part of the age-friendly plan about age safety and partnering with senior providers in the district. Making sure seniors are aware about the emergency plan. Making sure that they know where the evacuation routes are, and how to prepare. Is that being considered as part of this initiative?

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: It is. In fact, we just-- At NYAM just completed a study and DFTA was very involved as well in doing an assessment, a post Sandy Assessment because obviously seniors are most heavily affected.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: [interposing]  
Correct.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Those were there highest mortality rates. Many of whom, you know, died in their homes from downing interestingly.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Correct.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: So we're very well aware of it. I think the results were just put out. I think the report came out about three our four months ago, and we've been really working with the emergency preparedness agencies because what we've found is that seniors knew a lot about how better--

how best to serve them in emergencies. They know which agencies locally that they trusted, and they had really good ideas about how to create neighborhoods specific networks and response systems. And so far, the meetings have been going really, really well. We've been in meetings serially with Lindsay Goldman who's been leading that part of the initiative as being maybe with the emergency preparedness agencies in the city and they're quite responsive. So I think we're going to see some modifications of the existing plans in response to things that the seniors identified as priorities for them.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Great because my office is willing to partner with you at any time to really engage seniors to inform them of the emergency plans or senior centers. I have a district that has a very large senior citizen population. I want to make sure-- They're the most vulnerable--

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: [interposing]  
Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: -- during these types of events making sure that they're well prepared. And I saw some images the benches, more

benches. One recommendation, and I don't know if you've heard from other districts is that particularly in the summer time it gets pretty hot in Coney Island and the metal benches get pretty hot.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: [interposing] Yes, I'm sure they do. Yeah. [laughs]

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So are there any plans to look at, or benches that are-- that don't get so hot during the summer time?

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Yes, that's right, and we've heard that, and I think that the challenge is sort of finding a partner that can produce benches or high quality balance, and cost-effectiveness that are not made out of metal that get heated up. So we're on it. We've gotten the feedback. [laughs]

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Council Member Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Thank you, Madam Chair, and Shauneequa. Nice to see you. Congratulations and I guess my condolences, right, because you've got to be careful what you pray for. So there is already a list of districts where the

2 additional Age-Friendly Districts will be developed.

3 Is there?

4               SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: We currently don't  
5 have a final list. We've proposed neighborhoods  
6 based off of the criteria that I mentioned earlier.  
7 We've been--

8               COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [interposing]  
9 That's the page I'm looking at in your presentation.  
10 So it has the criteria. So my hope is that you have  
11 an idea of what those districts are to be or those  
12 neighborhoods are to be, and that there is active  
13 conversations with the Council Member. We don't  
14 always have everything on the radar. We maybe  
15 should, but we don't, and we can't miss an  
16 opportunity to be able to provide the additional  
17 resources and/or collaboration that would happen  
18 under this initiative in the community. So I  
19 recommend that you actively reach out to the council  
20 members whose districts are primed for the next wave  
21 of development of this initiative. Because if you  
22 leave it to us, we might miss it.

23               COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: [off mic] Not  
24 intentional. [sic]



COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: You know not intent-- You know, at 57 I'm just too honest maybe, but the fact of the matter remains is that a member may not know that they're ready unless we're organized in some way in order for us to move to the next steps. So my recommendation is that if you have a list of neighborhoods you find are ideal for the wave that those members be brought into the conversation sooner rather than later so that that work can get started sooner rather than later. And that's all my-- It's not a question. It's a recommendation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Yes, I think those conversations are going to be ongoing to get ready to start and they do have some proposal, but I guess you have to touch base with the Council Member to make sure that they want it. That they have the resources or willingness to do it and then--

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [interposing] I don't know any member that wouldn't want it, and the problem you're going to have is you better prove to me my district should not be on that list. That's all I'm saying.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: No, I agree and I think this has got to be a collaborative process. Really, it's most effective when you're led from the councilperson's office. As I said, though, we're excited about the commitment to move into each of the districts over the next three or four years. And so, there may be ways certainly, but your point is well taken, whenever it happens.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: I guess the question relating to that is that you have some pilot projects that were privately funded. So I guess with the Administration, Commissioner is it, you know, does the Administration look at other funding sources to help kind of expand this program besides just the City Council funding.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: There's a budget commitment in terms of the administration as well as the Council, but on specific projects depending on the projects we always look for outside funding from aging specific foundations, yes.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: So hopefully, we can find more resources to expand as quickly as we can even though the target is all the district by 2018.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Madam Chair, if I may. One of the really important points is the networking that the Commissioner is doing with other city agencies because we found at the outset of Age Friendly that very often if agency heads are really asked to just look at what are the programs and capital investments you're going to be making anyway, over the next two or three years. And to the degree there were districts identified and/or projects that they could either shift the timing on or just think about doing them in a different way, often it doesn't require additional funds. I think having been in city government myself, the first thing you don't want to start necessarily. It's only going to be more money from city agencies. And one of the reasons they signed on was really just asking them to look at what they were going to do anyway with an aging lens. And I think the specificity of the districts in this process will even be more helpful there.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Madam Chair, if I can jump in on that. I think what you just mentioned is critical because there's not a council member district that's not undergoing some project

whether it's a library or park. And it usually costs hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars. I would hate to finish a project and find out we could have done something more age-friendly within that project. So we're going to ask not even to wait until 2018 even though it's the ten districts every council district probably can tweak a project to make it more age-friendly now.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: As opposed to saying, gee, I wish we would move on it. So I could use your help on that because we're all-- And the budget is coming up very quickly again. So we would like to talk about certain things within that. Especially the libraries. I think if we're talking about seniors, the libraries are becoming community centers now. And there are ways within the parks and the libraries to implement everything we just talked about.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Certainly within capital projects, and universal design should just be an essential element of every budget. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Yes, we agree with you on that. Council Member Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

Sorry to have to jump in and out here. So, Chair, thank you so much for holding this hearing. Thank you for all the good work that you guys are doing. I wanted to bring up something that I hope hasn't already been discussed while I was out of the room, and that is how we can work with NYCHA on making their developments more age-friendly. Have we discussed at all yet? No. Okay. So there's a NYCHA-- I want to bring to your attention that there's NYCHA complex in my district in senior [sic] houses that is working very closes with architects to-- And they have already come up with a plan to remodel a floor of one of their buildings to be more age-friendly. It's sort of like setting it up to be sort of the next step up keeping them in their homes, but not in a nursing home. And I wanted to know if you were working with NYCHA on this at all? If you would be willing to work with NYCHA, we'd love your help. Of course, some of it will be funding, but I'm sure also you would have great insights.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: We would, but what I've been learning is that the architects that specifically work on senior housing and senior specific designs that that is a specialty within architecture and within that field. And they have the wherewithal, and the knowledge to know exactly how to construct a building whether it's retrofitting or building from the ground up. So that knowledge and expertise already exists. And in my conversations with the HPD Commissioner and with OMH and the Parks Department and all of that. They've also incorporated those universal design concepts in anything that they're doing. So it's a well-established field. But sure, we're always willing to consult with NYCHA. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [mic] Are you a NYCHA department at all? [sic]

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: I think we're actually part of the meeting that we were both talking about already. Yeah. [laughs]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: All right, thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Just one last question. I think in your presentation you talk

about having Business Improvement District and other non-profits within the community, and that would be sort of helpful with the implementation. So is that one of the criteria that you're going to be using? Whether that community has organization of the Business Improvement District or emergency associations or CDOs that can be involved?

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: It's listed as one of the ideal criteria. It's not on the core list, but it's on the side, and I think we found that because as you stated earlier seniors do buy local. And the friendliness of the local business, and the value to local merchants of being senior friendly is really important. So I think it's been shown to be incredibly helpful, and important as a force in the community. I think we're all seeing that to produce health in any community whether it's aging or otherwise, the business community really needs to buy in and get aligned. And very often they have funds that they might be willing to invest and/or certainly because it's in their business interest, and for them to then make their businesses more internally. So I think any kind of emergency association a BID is great. Other, you know, BIDs in

their districts obviously. But I think it's a strong force if it's there.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Okay. I think going forward that even one in each Council District may not be enough. [laughter] And I'm must looking at my Council District. I've got so many different neighborhoods. So I think that when you talk about Age-Friendly Neighborhoods, it's going to be a lot more.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Well, I think one of the things we've found over time and part of what we tried to do in our work so far, and really learning from each experience is developing tool kits. Really in the case of Bed-Stuy you were really, if you will, kind of coaching a local organization that really was-- Really took the project forward. So I think we're hoping-- We don't want to be the limiting staff, and I don't think any of the government agencies do as well. So the idea is if there is one, then this is where councilperson becomes really important because they can bring people from other neighborhoods in to see the one that's working. And they can get their own ideas and



try to be helpful. So it's a bit viral in some ways once it gets started.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Great. Thank you. We're going to hear from the Bed-Stuy later. So thank you very much for coming to testify today.

SHAUNEEQUA OWUSU: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RESNICK: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: And we're joined by our former colleague, and our Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. She had an Age-Friendly District so welcome.

[Pause]

GALE BREWER: Thank you very much, Madam Chair and members of the committee, and it is an honor to be here today. I'm going to summarize. I think we're passing out some material, but I'm going to summarize it because I know this topic well, and I love the fact that you're having the hearing. And I want to thank DFTA and the folks of the Academy for all their support. Just in Manhattan alone, we have about 231,000 older adults, and in the five boroughs over 65 is over a million. And the good news or the bad news, I think it's good news. I think young

people may feel a bit differently, but we're going to increase 45% those of us 65 and older in the next two decades. So at that time, one in every five New Yorkers will be 60 or older. It's a little scary to think about.

So we thought about Age-Friendly. We had two meetings, one in 2008 on the West Side and one in April 2011. And I have to say over a thousand seniors showed up at each meeting. There were so many that the fire department was going to close down the hall where we had it. So people are interested because they want to know that you care about their issues. And people are very, very interested in transportation, the housing, the health, the culture, and the social services. All of the things that you've been talking about. So starting off with that kind of hearing really gave people ideas about what to do in the neighborhood. And like you said, not every neighborhood is the same. So in our case transportation safety as it continues to be you might think it's other issues.

But that is the number one concern. Seniors want to be able to get around, and they want to get around safely. And so the bike lanes became

the number one issue at these forums, the concern. And so, at that point, we did what others have done. We had several meetings with the delivery people. The Department of Transportation hired people to go door-to-door to talk about safety, and I think you noted there were laws that were passed in terms of delivery people. But it came out of these sessions. To be honest with you, the real concern. Because we have that many people concerned about transportation, and to them it was the bicycles more than anything else. At the same time, as we talked about enforcement and all the things that are ongoing in discussion.

I want to say also as we speak we are going up and down Broadway. The enter Broadway to look at curb cuts because if you don't have a safe curb cut, people are going to trip, and they're going to fall. And again, it's back to transportation safety in its broadest terms. So just getting around has to be part of any age friendly discussion. The benches are so popular. I mean we have a lot of them. I don't think they're throughout everywhere, and so we need more benches. They are comfortable. They go in the right direction. People want to sit

on them. They're attractive. Again, that was something that came out of the discussion both at our funder, our discussions, these huge gatherings. And also at the original meeting that we had with the Academy and the mayor at that time, and all of the advocates.

So I think we need more benches everywhere. There is one interesting problem. When you put them near a school, they have to be facing out towards a street when there's a fence between the playground and the street because parents don't want people peeping on their children. So little things like that we learned. We had a lot of input as to where every friggin' bench goes. [laughs] Because every time you put a bench, if somebody in the neighborhood doesn't like it, or the senior doesn't like it, then you have a whole discussion. So put the benches where people want, and you've got to have input to the benches.

Lisa [sic] Manhattan and I'm sure elsewhere free tickets to Broadway shows. That is the most popular event. And the fact of the matter is the good news and bad news. This is what we learned. So we went to Lincoln Center and the

Broadway shows. We know that some senior programs work hard. It's a full-time volunteer job to get free tickets to Broadway shows. I think all of our neighborhoods are full of great cultural opportunities. So the question is, how do you get them to seniors? It turns out that a lot of the audiences in our city are already older. So they actually want younger audience members. So we learned the hard way. That's what we learned.

On the other hand, the young people aren't available like this, you know. It's 2 o'clock. We have an 8 o'clock curtain. Who's available? And we have this big problem of how do we tell the seniors that, you know, the Wiz is available tonight. We've got 20 tickets. I can't say we solved that problem, but we've had lots of discussions. Texting isn't always happening when you're over 65 or 80 years old. So I think we need to think of a better system because there are tickets available to the Met or to the Wiz or even to the other programs. And also, where are the good free programs at Juilliard or BAM or Lehman College, and all these other great places? That we haven't solved. But I can say the cultural activities.

But then the next problem is who are you going to go with? That came up over and over again. I live alone. Are they going to go with you, Council Member? I'll tell the lady down the street that you would like to go.

COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic] I'll take my wife with me.

GALE BREWER: But the lady down the street wants to go with somebody. It's late at night, and she doesn't have anybody to go with. So doing buddy programs came up over and over again. Who can I go with? I'd like to go with somebody. I'm out. I want to go to the theater. I want to go to the music program. I don't have anybody to go with. So again, not that it's solved but these are the issues that we came up with.

The whole issue of technology. As you know, I'm a big supporter of Older Adults Technology Services, OATS, which I know you are also. Because of all of our interest, in 2007, we helped to write a federal grant so they got some of the stimulus money, actually millions of dollars. It has now run out at the end of 2013, and we were able to get in last year's budget some more money for technology and

seniors and OATS. But I will tell you that is a huge unmet need. The seniors want to be able to participate in technology. Not just for their own needs, but to see their grandchildren. A lot of the senior centers have broken computers. I was in one the other day. There was no actual teacher. Some of the work. Some of them don't.

OATS has a phenomenal center on 25th Street, but that's not in all five boroughs. Homebound seniors, seniors coming home from the hospital. There have been some pilots where seniors coming home can use the technology, and don't have to make as many trips to the doctor. Nurses often go to the seniors. We know about the homebound issue problem. There are a lot of dead spots in buildings. So we would like them as a health professional to communicate with the doctor and the senior to avoid going to the doctor. But the trouble is there are a lot of dead spots using that technology. So these are all some of the problems. I can say there are a lot of good aspects to it because OATES has expanded tremendously. But it still has challenges, a whole world of technology.

Grow Green Age Well Initiative. I say that this is what we worked with the Academy on so well. Grocery stores, they hard to find now. I don't know about, but we're losing them and all the neighborhoods the grocery stores. We should have a much better grocery store opportunity. That's another whole story, but they have to lug the groceries home. Sometimes somebody has to do some grocery shopping for them. So we put together a brochure, something simple. Who's friendly, which stores that we-- We surveyed all of the groceries in the neighborhood. Who is friendly? Who has small portions? Who helps you reach high up? That's an issue. Margaret needs it anyway, but, you know, for everybody else. [laughs] Who is going to have a bathroom? Who has a place to sit in the grocery store? Little things like that. And again, doing a survey of all the grocery stores, and then making that available in a leaflet. It was so popular. People would want to know that kind of information. Who delivers for free. All of that kind of information that makes sense for your probably language issues also.



So coming out of all that, we realized the importance of food and how it could be fresh and gotten to seniors. We did two things. Thanks to DFTA we sat with them because under federal government, understandably you have to have a nutritious meal at the senior center and homebound. So we were able to work with DFTA so that their nutritional stated that instead of--and these are my words--canned broccoli, which I hate, to be honest with you. We could have fresh fruits and vegetables from the wholesale program at the Green Market. And that has been such a positive aspect to the senior centers. Now, it's complicate to give you the challenges. The senior centers have distributors.

They have people they work with to purchase their foods just like any store or any restaurant. So to introduce a farmer, introduce a Green Market is challenging. It's not an easy change because the senior center chef, who is like any other chef or any other business owner in a sense, they have people whom they work with. So just making that change as part of an age-friendly effort is hard. It's much better for the senior and for the families.

But it's a change that we had to work on. But I want to thank DFTA because they allowed it to happen.

At the same time, we found out that every school has a garden, a greenhouse, hydroponics.

They've all gone nuts. So guess what, in the summer you have more lettuce. What in the world are you going to do with all that lettuce in the summer? So we brought the senior chef over to the school, and the senior chef was like, What is this? But now the senior center is getting all the lettuce.

Unbelievably delicious lettuce, hydroponic from the school, and even during the year because there's so much lettuce when you have hydroponic that even the cafeteria can't use it all.

So that relationship now means that the seniors who didn't believe me that there was lettuce growing in water across the street. Now, the seniors go to the school, and they, too, help, too, with harvesting the lettuce. And there are other greens and other aspects. So that relationship intergenerational can be very special when you come to food. Again, there are gardens and other situations. So this doesn't, you know, address a huge, huge issue of food insecurity, but it helps for

intergenerational and it helps for better food in the programs.

Then what happened was we said, okay, so if we have this with food, why can't we have food delivered to the senior centers from the farmers? So working with Green Market again, we managed to get for \$8.00 we ended up with amazing bags of fresh fruits and vegetables working with at least ten or so senior centers. I cannot believe how-- I can't tell you how popular this program is. It is now West Side, Harlem and in Chelsea Clinton. We hope to go all through Manhattan. For \$8.00 they get this huge, huge basket of fruit, bag of fruit. And we actually do the ordering in my office. Shula Warren is amazing, but it's not too heavy. We don't put a 50-pound squash in there, and it's also according to the community.

If it's a Latino community, if it's the West Side community, if it's a Harlem community different foods that are relevant. Believe me, you don't want to mix them up. We did that once. So you want to have foods that are appropriate and it's not too have. And then a van takes those unbelievable numbers of bags that have been packed by seniors in

the neighborhoods that want to help, by interns, by volunteers, hundreds and hundreds of them now, to the senior center. Or even in some cases, and we need to do more of this, to the lobby of a building that's willing to let bags of food be there. And then the senior picks them up when he or she can during the day.

Because there's a block association or a NORC, a horizontal NORC or vertical NORC that's willing to do that. People love it and they pay \$8.00 the week before. So it's all calculated. Again, I'm giving you a summary, but I think it's also they feel government is doing something for them, and the food is absolutely phenomenal. We include the farmer name, the name of the farmer who has grown the food, the location of the farm, and some recipes as to how to use those particular vegetables and fruits that year.

Needless to say, we documented. We did a report on it, and it's unbelievably successful. I've actually been shocked at how successful it is, and Central Harlem the Dough Fund is helping there. There are about three or four centers that are participating and many more want to. Obviously,

we're getting to the end of the growing season. But, of course, people are trying to say, what can we grow during the winter? That kind of thing. I think also just to jump on the topics, the whole issue of housing. I think you had a further discussion. The main issue for SCRIE you've heard it for seniors and being age-friendly is they need a place to go to give, to talk, to get questions answered. We have one in Manhattan, as you know, that I was very instrumental on John Street on getting opened. But I think in all the boroughs the Department of Finance has got to have a place where people go to get their answers to questions. And so, I just want to say a couple of other things.

I think that the issue of small businesses came up, and this is incredibly important. I know that lots of people are working on that. I can tell you some of the challenges. One of the challenges is the small businesses, which as anybody knows, I'm a mom and pop fanatic. I'm not normal. I think that they should be in many more locations, but they often have a step because they're small. And for me, unfortunately, a lot of the chains, because they're newer they have the sliding doors. The whole

issue of doors is incredibly important. When you have a really heavy door on a bank. I know one senior to make the bank friendlier, she spent a whole year advocating the bank to have a door that was easier to open. It was a little, but she just could not open the heavy door. She had to wait for somebody to open the door. Just a door could be an impediment to an age-friendly community. So I think the issue of thinking about working with small business owners on the street how they can make their business more age-friendly. Is it a challenge? It's not an easy way to go about them, and just a built environment can be a hindrance.

And then finally, as you can imagine, we have in the Manhattan Borough office, the Manhattan Borough Senior Advisory Council with Seniors. And one of their issues is higher education. Because in every neighborhood you have a college, and you have a library in that college. And yes the libraries as the Council Member indicated are definitely senior spots as is I'm afraid McDonald's. These come up a lot. They're real issues. The other one is why can't the colleges have a more senior friendly policy? And that's something to be worked on.

The seniors would like to use those facilities and institutions, and how do we work out together a way to do that. You know, similar to the issue of the cultural. They have a lot of time. They have great interest. They want to talk about civic affairs. They want to be educated. They want to have ongoing learning. Some of the institutions have some online learning. Some of the senior centers have it also. That involves technology. So how can we work on it together.

So that's just a summary of some of our thoughts, but in general the way that we approached it was a built environment. We also approached it in terms of health and fitness. There are a lot of ways that you can become healthy. Food is just one of them. Obviously, all the exercise and things that a lot of the senior centers do. But how do you get food to people at their place of residence so it's not something that they have to drag, and figuring out a way of loading it. And if they do, what's the friendliness of that institution.

So I really appreciate all the work that the Academy has done, DFTA, all the advocates, and I think that each neighborhood is different. But I

think there are some bottom lines that could make our entire city much more age friendly. And I really appreciate the opportunity to talk about these issues. Thank you very, very much.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you, Borough President and thank you for all your advocacy for all these years. And we've still got Council Member Rosenthal who was here earlier.

GALE BREWER: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: So she's got to carry on that age-friendly district.

GALE BREWER: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Well, thank you for being here today.

01:21:30 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Just real quick, Madam President--

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Oh.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: --you're spoiling us with your President now two days in a row and all your wisdom. So we're getting very used to this. Would you, before you leave any advice I guess on the criterion that's being used to create, do you think it can be expanded changed or just eventually just accrued? I know by 2018, we're going to have



hopefully all 51, but do you see any things that we can look at and make sure.

GALE BREWER: I think you'll have to-- I mean I'll have to give-- Just as an example, I was in the room when the Speaker was a council member and Adrian Benepe [sp?] and she figured out the swimming thing I mean as an exercise and I'm sure she talked about it.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: She did.

GALE BREWER: But I think what you have to do is bring together the huge number and see what's number one on people's minds whether it's the built environment or longer library hours or whatever, and try to have some successes. So that people can-- Because it's hard to define what's age-friendly. And so people-- Like the swimming was great. That's clear, and what we did with the food is clear. So you have to think of one defining issue that you can have a success on, and then I think build from that. I mean we haven't had success so much with the tickets or some of the other issues. The countdown signals, which is a travel issue, and the benches. If you have a lot of those, then people begin to see, Oh, something is happening that is for

me. So each neighborhood being different, and in your case it's different because you've got more suburban stile, and you've got some-- You know, you have other issues.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: There are transportation issues. When--

GALE BREWER: Transportation issues.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: --seniors can get from one part of the district to the other.

GALE BREWER: Right. So maybe you need a trolley or something. I don't know. Something that would get them from place to place that they would see was for them. I mean we have parks that seniors can't go to because they're too steep. You know, they can't get to them. They literally say, I can't get to that park. How am I--? The museums. They can't go to the American Museum of Natural History. It's too far to walk between exhibits. Things like that you wouldn't think of but those are the kinds of things that they would like to have some support with. So I guess think of something that's defining--

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [interposing]

Thank you.

GALE BREWER: And then try to focus on that.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you very much.

GALE BREWER: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you. We're going to call up the next panel.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Michael Lambert from Bed-Stuy Gateway BID. Larissa Green from also the Bed-Stuy Aging Improvement District; Helene Collier from LIISC, and Jerry Maltz from the American Institute of Architects

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: You may begin. Please identify yourself before speaking.

MICHAEL LAMBERT: Good afternoon. My name is Michael Lambert. I'm the Executive Director of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Gateway Business Improvement District in Central Brooklyn. I also serve as the Co-Chairman of the New York City BID Association. The Bed-Stuy Business Improvement District is the home for almost 400 small businesses on Foley Street between Troy and Classon Avenues, and

along Ocean Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Halsey Street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Central Brooklyn. I am also the Co-Chair of the BID Association, a member organization of Business Improvement District Directors created to collectively address issues faced by the city's BIDs. I thank Mayor de Blasio, Department of the Aging, Commissioner Corrado, Speaker Mark-Viverito, and the Committee on Aging Chair Council Member Chin and members of the City Council Committee on Aging, and the other members of the City Council for the opportunity to testify here before you this afternoon.

Under the leadership of the Department of Small Business Services' Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer with the core goals of the Business Improvement Districts is to provide resources that contribute to the economic viability of the city's commercial corridors in which they are located. One way to achieve this is to create environments that attract consumers of all demographics. The aging population is in the border consumer demographic and represents a very important consumer segment. Especially in a neighborhood like Bedford-Stuyvesant,

which has residents many of which have lived there for over four decades.

As Bedford-Stuyvesant's main commercial thoroughfare, the Bed-Stuy Gateway BID is situated in one of the original three New York City neighborhood projects for the Aging Improvement District program. Based on New York City census data, nearly 30% of Bedford-Stuyvesant residents are 60 years or older. To identify methods to accommodate the shopping needs of Aging Demographic of Bedford-Stuyvesant, the BID has worked with the Office of Council Member Cornegy, the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford-Stuyvesant, the Age-Friendly Initiative of the New York Academy of Medicine, and local BID business to promote and execute programs that benefit this group of consumers.

Programs include evaluating local small business to determine their level of age-friendliness. Providing technical assistance as well as local small business with regard to where they can do better to accommodate aging consumers. Offering small grants to implement changes relating to making business more age-friendly. Engaging seniors and creating as age-friendly ambassadors who are able to

then connect and conduct outreach to area business and the local community regarding the benefits of the age-friendly services. There have also been meetings around communications and social media campaigns to further get the word out about these programs.

Aging consumers are often pleased with a program specifically created to provide them with targeted and more convenient shopping options. These have included discounts for seniors on specific days of the week, physical accommodations such as providing wider aisles. Placing products at levels where seniors don't have to bend down to reach them, and providing menus and flyers with larger fonts making them easier to read. In some cases this could result in new customers patronizing and new sources of revenue for local area small businesses. The BID has also worked with the staff of the of the New York Academy of Medicine's Age-Friendly Initiative to conduct surveys and produce profiles of age-friendly businesses, and the benefits to aging consumers.

While these are only some of the examples of how age-friendly programs benefit both the aging consumer who take advantage of them, and the businesses who create them, there is still a greater

need to promote these concepts to greater numbers of businesses and residents in the area. Providing expanded funding opportunities for businesses looking to become age-friendly would also be welcomed by many local small businesses. The BID looks forward to working with the Council, the New York City Business Association, the New York Academy of Medicine, and others to continue to promote age-friendly initiatives in Bedford-Stuyvesant and throughout the City making it a great place for our aging New Yorker population. Thank you for having me here this afternoon.

LARISSA GREEN: Greetings, member of the Committee on the Aging, on Aging, Madam Speaker, and Madam Chair. My name is Larissa Green. I serve as the Program Manager of the Coalition for the Improvement of Bed-Stuy as well as the Bedford-Stuyvesant Aging Improvement District. I would like to express my gratitude for the invitation to Bed-Stuy's AID to come and share our successes with you all. The Bedford-Stuyvesant Aging Improvement District is a program that brings the concerns and suggestions of older adults to our local businesses, non-profit organizations, city officials, cultural,

educational and religious institutions to develop strategic initiatives that positively impact the lives of older adults. We are privately funded by the Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation. The program began in 2011 with the Coalition for the Improvement of Bed-Stuy in partnership with the New York Academy of Medicine and the Local Support Initiatives Corporation. We would also like to recognize and thank your Council Member Cornegy who is the mighty council member of the 36th District for his unwavering support.

Our AID's goals are to promote healthy living, eating, and social engagement, encourage financial empowerment, and to promote age-friendly retail among the neighborhood seniors. We obtained these goals through the Coalition for the Improvement of Bed-Stuy's Model. We are a community partnership organization, and we facilitate collaborative programming between non-profits in Bed-Stuy so that greater change is affected in different focus areas. Those areas are business vitality, social services, workforce, housing, and savings and asset building.

The organizations in partnership with BID incorporate senior activities that promote our goals



into their work plans. For example, Bridge Street Development Corporation has a multitude of workshops and events such as cooking classes, line dancing, and financial empowerment seminars for the community seniors. Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation and NEBHDCO has built their community garden with the help of their resident seniors, and they have begun to offer gardening, cooking, and nutritional classes to the community. They have also begun to screen the participants at their pantry for benefits in order to increase the amount of seniors are taking advantage of these free benefits.

The Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation is another one of our star partnerships as they are extremely instrumental in increasing the number of seniors who have the opportunity to get their homes weatherized in addition to a number of free benefits. Many of our partners do go above and beyond to incorporate enrichment programs for our seniors. In addition to these this our Aging Improvement District participates in the Age-Friendly Retail Initiative, which Mr. Lambert touched upon. Which means that we advocate on behalf of seniors to business owners imploring them to offer senior

discounts and/or make physical improvements that will benefit their senior customer base. We also offer micro grants of \$1,000 to incentivize them to make these physical improvements. To date, we have engaged in conversations with 55 business owners and influencers about making their businesses more senior friendly. Eleven businesses have signed on to make their businesses more senior friendly by way of either a physical improvement and/or a discount.

Bedford-Stuyvesant Aging Improvement

District seeks to assist older individuals in achieving safe, healthy, and independent lifestyles by providing for them through our community organization. I'm sorry. Opportunities where they can learn about the benefits, and resources that they are qualified for and enroll in the services. These things will aid them in financial security for retirement and the Age-Friendly Retail Program. To do these things even more effectively, and to increase the programs sustainability, we've teamed up with the neighborhood's senior leaders and ordained them as our age-friendly ambassadors.

Our age-friendly ambassadors have embarked on a campaign of benefit screenings at

different senior centers throughout the neighborhood. In these screenings, we utilize Single Stop of Bedford-Stuyvesant's Restoration Corporation's to screen for a SNAP, SCRIE, DRIE, Access-A-Ride, The Medicare Savings Program, and a variety of other free benefits. Single Stop on the Road makes it easy for seniors to access their benefits. The seniors are screened, provided with application assistance so the applications are completed, and then they are mailed out. Follow-up is done in the end to ensure that the benefits are actually received. They are a one-stop shop for determining eligibility, and in the case of these screenings in particular enrollment. There is actually a benefit screening going on right now at the Restoration Corporation that the Ambassadors are holding down in my absence to come and share with you.

Our age-friendly ambassadors have also hit the pavement in our Age-Friendly Retail Initiative. They, too, go door-to-door engaging with local businesses to advocate for these physical improvements and the senior discounts. They are very proud of the work that has been done to date. However, one of our major setbacks is that

unfortunately our funding period has come to an end.

And in order to continue such great work, we are in need of financial support. Thank you for allowing me testify today.

COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic] You had a lot to tell us about. [laughter]

HELEN COLLIER: Thank you, Chair Chin and Aging Committee members for inviting LISC to testify about Age-friendly New York City Aging Improvement Districts. My name is Helene Collier. I'm the Policy Director of Local Initiatives Corporation's New York City Office. I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of LISC New York City, one of LISC's 30 city-based program offices nationwide. To just tell you very briefly about who LISC is, our mission is to help resident focused community-based non-profit organizations transform distressed communities and neighborhoods into healthy ones that are good places to live, do business, work, and raise families.

Over the last 34 years, LISC New York City has invested approximately \$2.3 billion in more than 75 New York City community development corporations and other local non-profit organizations. With our support, these organizations

have developed over 34,600 affordable homes, and more than 2.3 million square feet of community and commercial space. And I bring this up because I think that community development corporations and community-based organizations are key to Aging Improvement Districts. As my colleague has just testified and my colleague at the BID. Having organizations, participating organizations on the ground with close relationships with the community is a very good starting point for developing age-friendly neighborhoods and aging improvement districts.

So part of LISC's housing work we've supported the development and rehabilitation of hundreds of senior apartments directly and through our equity investing affiliate National Equity Fund. For example, we've partnered with West Side Federation for Seniors In Support of Housing, WSFSSH on developments including Grandparent Family Apartments for grandparents raising their grandchildren. Barink [sic] and Court, which is a Section 202 repositioning, Los Puentes, which will be in construction and other such projects.

So LIISC New York City is very actively involved in the work of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Aging Improvement District, and strongly supports the Council's plans for increased funding to expand the reaching impact beyond the current four districts to the ten new districts and eventually citywide. We're very, very excited about that. Such an opportunity to serve the senior population and to also really marry the work of the Community Development Corporations to the needs of the seniors in their communities. So as my colleagues already mentioned the Bed-Stuy AID is led by a consortium of community-based organizations called SIBs. Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation is managing the AID staff, LIISC New York City and the New York Academy of Medicine dividing the technical assistance. And the funding up until now has come from the Fan Fax & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation. So three major community development corporations in Bed-Stuy are working together. As you've already heard, Bed-Stuy Restoration, Bridge Street Development Corporation and the Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation are all bringing their own resources and

programs and tailoring them to the needs of the seniors for the Aging Improvement District.

And because so much of what I wanted to say has already been said, I'll cut this short, and I'll focus on the fact that not only are seniors being served, but they're benefits that improve the neighborhood for everybody. And it's about creating community, connecting seniors to each other, but also to the neighbors of all ages in the neighborhood. Some of the most rewarding work that's come out of AID are the connections forged between seniors and children, recreating the best aspects of multi-generational culture.

A couple of things that I did want to point out. Liz Clungs [sp?], a Health Food Outreach Worker for the Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corp, and that work is to serve the entire community to bring healthier food to the community. But as part of this Aging Improvement District, special efforts are being made to connect seniors to-- Improve access for seniors to healthy food.

So the dividends for the entire community, seniors once they're no longer isolated, are brought back into the community by transportation

access, by their mobility being made easier are able to really give their incredible wisdom and life experience back to the community by sharing their life stories with their neighbors. Especially children in the community and adding to the social fabric. Senior-friendly improvements to the built environment have multiple-player positive effects that benefit everyone. Age-friendly in many cases also means disability friendly and child-friendly too. For example, curb cuts help people pushing strollers and people with mobility impairments, too. In addition to seniors moving around the neighborhood with the aid of wheelchairs, walkers, or canes. The same is true of benches and seats along with special corridors. They are convenient resting places for toddlers and small children and their exhausted parents and caregivers as well as seniors and people with mobility and endurance challenges.

Adult exercise equipment in the parks benefits adults of all ages not just seniors. And then many seniors especially immigrants from rural areas who have a tradition of working in gardens and raising their own food are experts on how to cultivate these gardens, and they can share that in



community gardens and elsewhere with the entire community.

So, really the point that LISC New York City wants to make is that we already have community infrastructure in many of our communities. Not all of them, but where this already exists. It makes sense to take a close look at what the capacity of those organizations have, what resources they already have, what partnerships, and relationships they bring to the table. And it's a way to serve more people, to bring more people into the program. And also to save resources. If it's already there, why not build on it as opposed to starting from scratch? So thank you very much for the opportunity to testify, and LISC New York City is happy to provide any other information that the committee might desire about how this could work and does work.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you.

JERRY MALTZ: Good afternoon. Thank you for letting us testify. I am Jerry Maltz, an architect representative of the Design for Aging Committee of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The Design for Aging Committee aims to increase public awareness of the

needs of seniors in an urban environment, and to create an age-friendly New York City by promoting design that accommodates those needs. The committee strongly supports the efforts of the New York City Council, the Age-Friendly New York City Commission, and the New York Academy of Medicine in establishing age-friendly neighborhoods we know now throughout the five boroughs of New York City. Working toward improving the city in ways that enable independent seniors to live safely and comfortably in their neighborhoods and apartments to age in place is an important aspect of creating an age-friendly city. Implementing ways for seniors to easily negotiate their surrounds also facilitates the goal of universal design by creating an environment that better serves the needs of all age groups. Thus, helping to maintain the diverse neighborhoods that are key to the city's vitality.

For the past five years, the Design for Aging Committee has been exploring multiple issues of aging in place within a dense urban environment. In May 2013, they conducted a charrette, that is an intensive one-day workshop to generate ideas for modifying the existing housing stock of New York

City. To enable seniors to continue to live independently in their current apartments and communities. The results of that charrette were exhibited at the Center for Architecture in Manhattan in January 2014, and can now be viewed on our website that's [www.boomingboroughs.org](http://www.boomingboroughs.org). The ideas generated can be considered through a corporation into the guides of building owners on how to adapt their properties to better accommodate the needs of tenants who are seniors. For which Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito plans to introduce legislation. The Design for Aging Committee would be very pleased to participate in developing that guide.

As a follow-up to the workshop, we are currently organizing a large-scale architectural competition to generate additional possibilities for modifying existing New York City housing stock. We are also the group that's working on the Amsterdam Houses project that Council Member Rosenthal mentioned a while ago. And we hope to get that project actually built as an improvement to existing New York City housing. The Design for Aging Committee would also be pleased to participate on the recently proposed Senior Housing Taskforce to

continually monitor existing conditions and focus on appropriate solutions.

In May 2011 at the request of the Age-Friendly New York City Commission and the New York Academy of Medicine, the Design for Aging Committee introduced a short documented titled Urban Design and Architectural Guidelines for an Age-Friendly New York City. Which contains numerous detailed suggestions for elements that should be included in an age-friendly neighborhood. That document is available on our website, and is also included here the written testimony that I have distributed.

These recommendations are consistent with the Mayor's recently announced Housing and Vision Zero plans, and would help New York's burgeoning senior population to remain active and engaged in their communities. Thus, aging with dignity. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you all for your testimony, and for your great work and hopefully we can duplicate some of those efforts in the new ten districts that the Council will be sponsoring. And hopefully we can expand that throughout the city. So

2 thank you again for coming today, and for your hard  
3 work.

4 HELEN COLLIER: Thank you.

5 JERRY MALTZ: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: I also wanted to thank  
7 our committee staff, Eric Bernstein, our Counsel.  
8 This is his first hearing with us, and James Sabudi  
9 [sp?], Policy Analyst, and also Doheny Sapura [sp?]  
10 who is our Finance Analyst who is on maternity leave.  
11 She just had a baby girl. So thank you again for  
12 coming today. And the meeting is now adjourned.  
13 [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 November 3, 2014