

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITY, ALCOHOLISM, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND  
DISABILITY SERVICES

----- X

May 27, 2015  
Start: 10:18 a.m.  
Recess: 10:43 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:  
ANDREW COHEN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
COREY D. JOHNSON  
ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY  
PAUL A. VALLONE  
RUBEN WILLS

1

2

[gavel]

3

CHAIR: Good morning. I'm Council Member

4

Andrew Cohen, chair of the Council's Committee on

5

Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,

6

Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Disability

7

Services. We are here to vote on proposed

8

resolution 282A and proposed resolution 410A.

9

Proposed resolution 282 and proposed resolution

10

410A call upon the New York State Legislature to

11

pass and the governor to sign senate bill 4748 and

12

assembly bill 5565A. The first resolution 282A

13

addresses the portion dealing with an increase in

14

the income threshold for the senior citizen

15

homeowners exemption program also known as CHE. The

16

second resolution, 410A addresses the portion

17

dealing with an increase in the income threshold

18

for the disabled homeowners exemption program also

19

known as DHE. By way of background the New York

20

state, New York State authorizes New York City to

21

provide certain senior citizens and persons with

22

disabilities property tax and rent increase

23

exemptions that help them remain in their homes.

24

The senior citizen rent increase exemption, SCRIE

25

program, was instituted to shield low income

1  
2 seniors age 62 and older from rising housing costs  
3 by offering landlords property tax abatements in  
4 exchange for freezing the rent of eligible senior  
5 citizens. The senior citizen homeowners exemption  
6 CHIE program is a property tax exemption for those  
7 who are age 65 and over who meet certain income  
8 requirements. The disability rent increase  
9 exemption, DRIE program exempts those that receive  
10 state or federal disability related assistance from  
11 future rent increases if they meet certain income  
12 requirements. The disabled homeowners exemption,  
13 DHE program, allows certain disabled homeowners of  
14 one, two, or three family homes, condominiums, or  
15 cooperative apartments a reduction on the assessed  
16 value of their home between five and 50 percent.  
17 More particularly the problem necessitating today's  
18 resolution is that the DHE and CHE programs' income  
19 requirements are not comparable to those of DRIE  
20 and SCRIE programs. In fact DHE and CHE program  
21 requires that the disabled or senior citizens'  
22 homeowners income not exceed 37,339 dollars. On the  
23 other hand SCRIE requires that senior citizens  
24 renter, senior citizen renter's income not exceed  
25 50,000 dollars to be eligible for the program. How

1  
2 this disparity arose is because the state  
3 authorized local governments to expand the  
4 eligibility requirements of the SCRIE and DRIE  
5 programs in the 2014/2015 executive budget but has  
6 not provided for adjustments to the income  
7 requirements of the CHE and DHE programs. These  
8 proposed resolutions seek to eliminate such  
9 discrepancies by urging the passage of and the  
10 governor signing senate bill 474A and assembly bill  
11 5565A. Legislation increasing the income thresholds  
12 for CHE and DHE programs. At last week's hearing on  
13 the proposed resolution we heard from advocates  
14 including Jossa [sp?] and the council of New York  
15 cooperative and condominiums. The testifying  
16 organizations strongly supported the passage of  
17 these resolutions; Resos 282 and 410 I conjunction  
18 with Reso 426 which was voted out of committee  
19 earlier this month form a three piece legislative  
20 package calling for stability in housing for our  
21 seniors and disabled population. I am optimistic  
22 that our partners in Albany will answer our call  
23 and remedy the issue by the end of the legislative  
24 session. I want to acknowledge the members of the  
25 committee; Councils Members Crowley and Vallone who

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITY, ALCOHOLISM, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND  
DISABILITY SERVICES

5

1

2

joined us so far. I'd like to thank the committee

3

staff Kimberly Williams and Michael Benjamin the

4

policy analyst and Crilhien Francisco the

5

committee's financial analyst. And I urge everyone

6

to vote aye.

7

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Kevin Penn,

8

Committee Clerk. Roll call on the Committee on

9

Mental Health, Developmental Disability, Substance

10

Abuse, Alcoholism, and Disability Services

11

resolutions 282A and 410A. Council Member Cohen.

12

CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Aye.

13

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Crowley.

14

[cross-talk]

15

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

16

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Vallone.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

18

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: By a vote of

19

three in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no

20

abstentions the items have been adopted.

21

CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Okay. And we'll keep

22

the record open. Thank you.

23

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Johnson.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

25

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITY, ALCOHOLISM, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND  
DISABILITY SERVICES

6

1

2

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Vote stands at  
four in the affirmative. Wills.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

5

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Final vote in the  
Committee on Mental Health; five in the  
affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
abstentions.

8

9

[gavel]

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

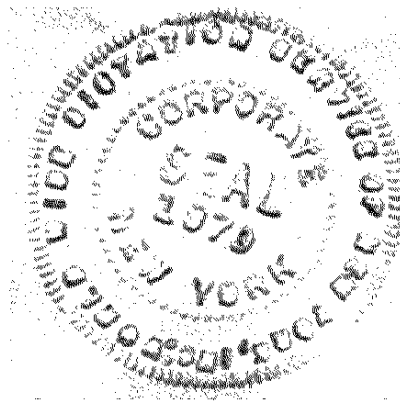
23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date May 29, 2015