

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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December 18, 2017

Start: 1:13 p.m.

Recess: 1:18 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway -Committee Rm.  
16<sup>th</sup> Fl.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Karen Koslowitz  
Deborah L. Rose  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Mark Treyger  
Paul A. Vallone  
Rosie Mendez

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Good afternoon. My  
4 name is Margaret Chin, Chair of the Committee on  
5 Aging. At today's hearing the committee will vote on  
6 two items. First, Proposed Intro No. 1185-A, a Local  
7 Law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of  
8 New York in relation to providing certain information  
9 to users of life-sustaining equipment and individuals  
10 for whom a disruption in electrical services would  
11 create a medical emergency. And second, Proposed  
12 Intro No. 1616-A, a Local Law in relation to  
13 establishing a temporary task force on post-  
14 incarceration reentry for older adults. Proposed  
15 Intro 1185-A would require the Department for the  
16 Aging, DFTA, to regularly provide written materials  
17 from New York City Emergency Management to all senior  
18 centers and naturally occurring retirement  
19 communities, sponsored by DFTA on how to register  
20 with utility companies as users of life-sustaining  
21 medical equipment or for whom a disruption in  
22 electrical service would create a medical emergency.  
23 As we all know, in times of emergency our seniors are  
24 particularly vulnerable especially those who use  
25 certain medical equipment that require electricity or

2 have medical conditions that could worsen with a loss  
3 of electricity. This bill will help provide  
4 information for seniors on how they can register with  
5 a utility company in order to be included in the  
6 company's system emergency plan when power outage  
7 occur. Proposed Intro 1616-A would created at  
8 temporary task force focused specifically on post-  
9 incarceration reentry for older adults. Seniors  
10 returning to the City from state prisons and local  
11 jails are faced—they face unique challenges and often  
12 require reentry services to help them return to  
13 civilian life. The task force would look at these  
14 unique challenges and make recommendations to the  
15 Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice or the Mayor's  
16 designee on who would then issue a report regarding  
17 among other things developing a compassionate post-  
18 incarceration older adults reentry policy. In  
19 closing, I would like to thank the staff that helped  
20 shepherd these items to a vote, our Committee Counsel  
21 Caitlin Fahey, our Policy Analyst Emily Rooney and  
22 Dohini Sompura and Daniel Koop from the Finance  
23 Division. I would urge my fellow colleagues—Council  
24 Members to vote in support of Proposed Intro 1185-A  
25 and 1616-A. We have been joined by our Senior Center

2 Subcommittee Chair, Council Member Vallone. We also  
3 Council Member Treyger, Council Member Deutsch and  
4 Council Member Rose. Now, I would like to ask  
5 Council Member Deutsch, the sponsor of 1185-AA to say  
6 f few words.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you, Madam  
8 Chair. Today we're voting on Intro 1185, my bill to  
9 require the Department for the Aging to conduct  
10 outreach in multiple languages to educate seniors who  
11 rely on life sustaining equipment about how to  
12 register with the utility company. This information  
13 will be posted on the DFTA website as well as shared  
14 with senior centers and NORCs throughout the city. In  
15 case of a power outage registered individuals are  
16 given top priority for repairs and emergency are  
17 available—are immediately made aware of homes that  
18 may require a generator or transportation to a  
19 medical facility. In my district, which is both a  
20 waterfront community and made up of more than 30%  
21 seniors this is especially important. After  
22 Hurricane Sandy when phone lines were down, many were  
23 trapped in their homes without any means of alerting  
24 first responders to their location. Those who relied  
25 on medical equipment to help them breather were in

2 particular—were in particular danger. This would not  
3 be the case if these older adults were registered  
4 with their utility companies. The more you know, the  
5 better off you are. I urge my colleagues to support  
6 Intro 1185, a bill that can truly save lives. I want  
7 to thank Caitlin Fahey and Emily Rooney for their  
8 dedicated—for their dedicated efforts in ensuring  
9 this bill retains its essential components. I also  
10 want to thank our Chair, Council Member Margaret Chin  
11 for her constant leadership and advocacy on behalf of  
12 the seniors of this city. Congratulate—  
13 congratulations and thank you for your efforts as  
14 Chair of this committee.

15 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you, Council  
16 Member Deutsch for your leadership. I would like to  
17 call the vote. Thank you.

18 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew  
19 Distefano, Committee on Aging. Roll call to approve  
20 Intros 1185-A and 1616-A. Chair Chin.

21 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: I vote aye on all.

22 CLERK: Rose.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

24 CLERK: Deutsch.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

2 CLERK: Treyger.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With  
4 congratulations to my colleagues on their bills and  
5 to the Chair, I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Vallone.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the  
9 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
10 the items have been adopted.

11 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Okay. So, now we can  
12 adjourn the hearing. Thank you very much for being  
13 here today, all of the committee members. [gavel]

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1 COMMITTEE ON AGING

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date January 7, 2018