

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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July 19, 2017  
Start: 1:23 p.m.  
Recess: 1:32 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.  
14<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] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Good afternoon. My  
4 name is Margaret Chin. I'm the Chair of the  
5 Committee on Aging. At today's hearing the committee  
6 will vote on Proposed Intro 1519-A, a Local Law to  
7 amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York  
8 in relation to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
9 Program enrollment and recertification for seniors.  
10 New York City houses two of the top five  
11 congressional districts in the nation with the  
12 highest percentage of seniors facing hunger. This  
13 partly stems from the fact that not enough eligible  
14 seniors enroll or recertify for SNAP. While SNAP  
15 enrollment among seniors has increased in recent  
16 years, many seniors still believe that they're not  
17 eligible for a variety of reasons including their  
18 income level and other available financial assets  
19 while others have never heard of the program. In  
20 addition, seniors may enroll in SNAP, but then fail  
21 to recertify the next year in order to continue to  
22 receive the benefit. In fact, more than 30% of  
23 eligible seniors in New York City are not receiving  
24 the SNAP benefits to which they are entitled to.  
25 Proposed Intro 1519-A is designed to increase

2 coordination between the Department of Social  
3 Services, otherwise known as DSS, and the Department  
4 for the Aging or DFTA on SNAP enrollment and  
5 recertification issues. The bill requires DSS in  
6 partnership with DFTA to increase awareness of SNAP  
7 through a public campaign targeted at seniors and  
8 their caregivers. The bill also requires DSS in  
9 coordination with DFTA to establish and implement a  
10 SNAP enrollment and recertification program for  
11 seniors. The program must ensure that SNAP  
12 enrollment and recertification programming is taking  
13 place at all senior centers in the city. The bill  
14 further requires DSS to provide an annual report to  
15 the Council and its public campaign and SNAP  
16 enrollment and recertification activities for seniors  
17 as well as provide the Council with SNAP enrollment  
18 and recertification data related to seniors each  
19 year. In closing, I would like to thank the staff  
20 that help shepherd this bill to a vote: Committee  
21 Counsel Caitlin Fahey; Policy Analyst Emily Rooney,  
22 and Dohini Sompura and Daniel Croup (sp?) from the  
23 Finance Division, and I would urge my fellow Council  
24 Members to vote in support of Proposed Intro 1519-A.

2 Before we—I ask Council Member Koslowitz, the bill's  
3 sponsor to say a few words.

4 MALE SPEAKER: She'll be right back.

5 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Oh, she'll be right  
6 back. We would like to say welcome to a special  
7 guest who I heard is the former Counsel to the  
8 Committee on Aging back 1998, right?

9 [cheers/applause] Earlier than that. Mr. Carl—Mr.  
10 Carl Smith in the '90s you were here. Some of—some  
11 of us weren't here yet, [laughter] but welcome.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic] You're  
13 more than welcome. (sic)

14 COUNCIL MEMBER: Welcome.

15 CARL SMITH: [off mic] I must say I'm  
16 very impressed with the building, with the hearing  
17 room. We didn't have this room back then. There was  
18 one hearing room in this building--

19 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: [interposing] Wow.

20 CARL SMITH: --and it didn't look like  
21 this. So, you've come a long way.

22 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: We have improved.

23 CARL SMITH: [off mic] You have.

24 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Yes, we have improved,  
25 and I've been joined by Council Member Vallone, Chair

1 COMMITTEE ON AGING

6

2 of our Subcommittee on Senior Centers and then we  
3 have Council Member Deutsch, Council Member Rose, and  
4 Council Member Mendez, and Council Member Koslowitz.  
5 So, Council Member Koslowitz, would you like to say-  
6 say a few words about your bill that we'll be voting  
7 on?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: If I can read  
9 a statement. This bill is [off mc] is substantive,  
10 and [on mic] it gives them an opportunity to learn  
11 about SNAP, which is a very important thing for  
12 seniors who can't afford food, and now it will be  
13 told to them at senior centers and other places where  
14 they will be told about it, and helped by it. So, I  
15 thank you, Madam Chair, for this opportunity, and I  
16 look forward to a yes vote on everything.

17 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you. Can the  
18 Counsel call the vote.

19 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
20 roll call vote Committee on Aging, Introduction 1519-  
21 A, Chair Chin.

22 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Mendez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye.

25 CLERK: Koslowitz.

1 COMMITTEE ON AGING

7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Rose.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I vote aye and I  
5 ask to be added to this—to Intro 1519-A. Thank you.

6 CLERK: Deutsch.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I vote aye, and  
8 I'd like to be added to this Intro 1519-A.

9 CLERK: Vallone.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

11 CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the  
12 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
13 the item has been adopted by the committee.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: This is Council  
15 Member Mendez. I'd like to be added to the bill as a  
16 co-sponsor as well. Thank you. [pause]

17 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: We're going to keep  
18 the vote open for the next ten minutes. Thank you.  
19 [pause]

20 CLERK: Continuation roll call, the  
21 Committee on Aging. Council Member Treyger.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: The final vote in the Committee  
24 on Aging Introduction 1519-A has now been adopted by

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1 COMMITTEE ON AGING

8

2 a vote of 7 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and  
3 no abstentions. [pause] [background comments]

4 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: [gavel] The hearing  
5 is adjourned. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date July 31, 2017