

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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August 14, 2025

Start: 9:49 a.m.

Recess: 9:53 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Crystal Hudson, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chris Banks  
Linda Lee  
Darlene Mealy  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Susan Zhuang

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Shahana Hanif

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Aging, recorded on August  
4 14, 2025, located in Chambers by Nazly Paytuvi.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
6 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the  
7 Committee on Aging.

8 At this time, please silence all  
9 electronic devices. Please silence all electronic  
10 devices.

11 No one may approach the dais.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: [GAVEL] Thank you so  
14 much. Good morning, and welcome to today's Aging  
15 Committee vote. I'm Crystal Hudson, Committee Chair,  
16 and my pronouns are she/her.

17 Today, we'll be hearing and voting on  
18 Resolution Number 986, sponsored by myself,  
19 recognizing today, August 14th, 2025, as the 90th  
20 anniversary of Social Security, and commemorating  
21 August 14th annually as Social Security Day in the  
22 City of New York. Social Security, yay, woo! Social  
23 Security, established in 1935 under President  
24 Franklin D. Roosevelt has served as a cornerstone of  
25 economic stability in the United States, offering

earned benefits to retired workers, individuals with disabilities, and surviving family members. Funded through payroll taxes, the program has provided uninterrupted payments for nearly 90 years, regardless of economic or political challenges, and remains a vital source of income for millions. As of 2025, nearly 69 million Americans, 52 million of whom are retired, receive Social Security benefits, totaling 1.6 trillion annually. In New York City, about 1.3 million residents rely on Social Security, with more than 40 percent using those payments to meet basic needs. With the population of Americans aged 65 and older expected to increase significantly by 2035, the program's role as a stabilizing force will only grow. Despite this increase, the Trump Administration is actively dismantling the infrastructure in place that supports older adults. In recent months, the federal government has made policy changes that make these benefits harder to access, from closing offices and removing language access services, to limiting direct deposit information changes and eliminating the federal office tasked with supporting older adults. And Trump's recent budget bill cut funding for food

assistance and healthcare coverage, jeopardizing programs that support older adults and making their Social Security checks even more crucial in their ability to make ends meet on a fixed income. By passing this Resolution, the Council will show it stands not only with older adults, most immediately affected by the Trump Administration's attempts to cut our nation's safety net, but with all Americans who have paid into Social Security and have the right to age with confidence and peace of mind. This Resolution recognizes this historic and ongoing impact of the Social Security program and commemorates August 14, the date the Social Security Act was signed into law, as Social Security Day here in New York City.

Thank you to AARP, especially Beth Finkel and Kevin Jones, for leading the charge in protecting older adults and vital resources like Social Security.

I urge my Colleagues to vote aye on this important legislation.

And finally, I'd like to thank the Aging Committee Staff, Christopher Pepe, Chloë Rivera, and Saiyemul Hamid for their work on today's vote. And I

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2 also want to thank my own team, Andrew Wright, Erika  
3 Ruintan, and Omar Richardson.

4 I'll now turn it over to the Committee  
5 Clerk to take the vote.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
7 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
8 vote, Committee on Aging, Resolution 986. Chair  
9 Hudson.

10 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Mealy.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Banks.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye, and  
19 congratulations to Social Security. And I also cast  
20 my vote in the memory of Gloria Cook, who was a  
21 strong advocate under the AARP and started the  
22 Eastern New York chapter. So, congratulations.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Salaam.  
24 Zhuang.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
3 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
4 and no abstentions, Resolution has been adopted by  
5 the Committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you so much.  
7 This hearing is adjourned. [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 September 2, 2025