

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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July 17, 2018  
Start: 1:07 p.m.  
Recess: 1:37 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: MARGARET S. CHIN

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Diana Ayala  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Deborah L. Rose  
Mark Treyger  
Paul A. Vallone

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

2 [sound check] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Good afternoon. Today  
4 the Committee on Aging will vote on two bills that  
5 New York City Council heard on April 23, 2018.  
6 Proposed Intro 399-B Sponsored by Council Member  
7 Vallone and Proposed Intro 411-A, which I am proud to  
8 sponsor. Proposed Intro 399-B would require the  
9 Department for the Aging, DFTA, to annually report to  
10 the Speaker and post his website data about the  
11 participant programming, services, and budget of each  
12 of DFTA's 249 senior centers. The first report and  
13 the first set of data would be due by December 31,  
14 2018, and ever December 31<sup>st</sup> thereafter. This data  
15 would include budget and cost information for  
16 congregate meals and for the three areas in which  
17 each senior provides services, information and case  
18 assistance, education and recreation, and health  
19 promotion. DFTA would also provide information about  
20 senior center staffing, personnel service budget and  
21 contracts. The second part of the report and second  
22 set of data would be due by December 31, 2019, and by  
23 every December 31<sup>st</sup> thereafter. This report would  
24 provide data about the number of participants,  
25 congregate meals served, and service utilized per day

2 per senior center over the last fiscal year.

3 Proposed Intro 399-B would take effect immediately.

4 Proposed Intro 411-A would require that for the

5 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which is

6 DOHMH to conduct health inspections at senior centers

7 and social adult daycares that are considered food

8 service establishments. Under the New York City

9 Health Code, DOHMH will make their inspections result

10 publicly available on their website, and be required

11 to submit an annual report to the Mayor and to the

12 Speaker about the department's activities with

13 respect to inspection of these senior centers and

14 social adult daycares. The first report will be due

15 by May 1, 2019 and by every May 1<sup>st</sup> thereafter. This

16 report would include a total number and names of

17 senior centers and social adult daycare that qualify

18 as food service establishments in each district. The

19 number of these establishments inspected, and

20 information summarizing the result of those

21 inspections including violations and corrective

22 actions. Proposed 411-A would also require DFTA to

23 annually provide the Department of Health and Mental

24 Hygiene with a list of all senior centers and social

25 adult daycares registered with the department, and

2 update any changes to the list on a monthly basis.  
3 DFTA would also be required to post information about  
4 these health inspections to its website so that  
5 seniors searching for senior centers and social adult  
6 daycares will be informed about health safeties on  
7 such premises. Proposed Intro 411-A would take  
8 effect 180 days after it becomes law. The Council  
9 Members that have joined us today, Council Member  
10 Vallone, Council Member Diaz, Council Member Ayala  
11 and Council Member Deutsch. Now, we will hear from  
12 Council Member Vallone, who is the sponsor of Intro  
13 399-A.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam  
15 Chair. These two bills are perfect examples of our  
16 team work and your leadership on aging when on  
17 numerous hearings that we're waiting for information  
18 from the agencies, and we're just not getting some of  
19 that core information, and these bills are a direct  
20 result of that. The fact that the core of the  
21 Department for the Aging Services portfolio is the  
22 agency's citywide network of 246 contracted senior  
23 centers frequently providing educational programs,  
24 congregate home delivered meals, recreational  
25 programming along with a variety of essential

2 services truly speaks to the importance of these  
3 centers and the populations they serve, and as we all  
4 know, seniors represent the fastest growing segment  
5 of the population in New York City and by 2040 more  
6 than 1 in every 5 New Yorkers will be 60 or older. I  
7 will be one of them, and as of today there are  
8 growing concerns about the declining senior center  
9 utilization rate, and the growing number of social  
10 daycare programs. This is why we've introduced and  
11 advocated for Intro 399, which calls on the  
12 Department for the Aging to report on a variety of  
13 metrics including services, costs, utilization rates  
14 at senior centers across the city not just for  
15 greater transparency, but also for a better  
16 understanding and hope that we can help adequately  
17 provide essential services to the population that  
18 needs it the most. We must continuously work hand-  
19 in-hand in making sure our seniors are not forgotten  
20 by creating and utilizing these programs, and  
21 properly shaping and conducting outreach from DFTA  
22 and several great organizations throughout the city.  
23 I'd like to thank everyone who has worked on this  
24 bill since our last session especially including  
25 Laura Popa, Regina Poreda Ryan, Dohini Sompura,

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2 Caitlin Fahey, Melissa (sic) Chaudhry, advocacy  
3 groups like Live On, AARP, FWPA and, of course, my  
4 Chief of Staff Jonathan Schutt, Michael Young and  
5 Ahmed Dzar (sp?) and I know we promoted the  
6 Legislative Director Michael Donan, Deputy Director  
7 Ahmed Dzar, and then once again I urge my colleagues  
8 to vote aye. Thank you Madam Chair.

9 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Thank you. We've also  
10 been joined by Council Member Vallone. I am going to  
11 ask the Clerk to the call the vote, and I urge my  
12 colleagues on the committee to vote yes on these  
13 legislations. Thank you.

14 CLERK: William Martin Committee Clerk,  
15 roll call vote Committee on Aging. Introductions  
16 399-B and 411-A are both coupled. Chair Chin.

17 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Eugene.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Deutsch.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Can I explain my  
22 vote. Yes, Okay.

23 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, first of  
25 all, I want to congratulate Council Member Vallone

2 and really you should have been an accountant because  
3 this—these two bills will not cost taxpayers a single  
4 penny.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I like that.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: So, and these  
7 are two great bill and so I just want to thank our  
8 chair as well, and I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Vallone.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Ayala.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Diaz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Permission to  
15 explain my vote. Madam Chairman and Council Members,  
16 as a person that has worked with senior citizens for  
17 most of my life operated in the Bronx Casa Boricua  
18 Senior Center, the Township (sic) Senior Center,  
19 Midbrook Senior, the South Bronx Senior Competition  
20 (sic) Network and the Home Within Home (sic). I've  
21 been—I have been working with senior centers. When I  
22 was here in 2001, I was Chairman of the Aging  
23 Committee. Today when I see these two bills, the two  
24 you Council Member Vallone, Council Member Chin  
25 protecting and looking out for—for the seniors, a



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2 population that really needs our support, our  
3 protection, I am proud. I am proud to serve with  
4 you, and I am honored to vote yes on both of the—of  
5 these two pieces of legislation because they are—they  
6 are needed, they're needed, long overdue, and I  
7 congratulate you. So, I vote yes.

8 CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the affirmative  
9 0 in the negative and no abstentions, both items have  
10 been adopted by the committee.

11 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: We're going to keep  
12 the vote open for the next 15 minutes so that other  
13 Council Members on the committee can come down to  
14 vote. Thank you. [pause][background comments]

15 CLERK: Continuation roll call, the  
16 Committee on Aging. Council Member Dromm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: With thanks to the  
18 chair, I vote aye. [laughs]

19 CLERK: The vote now stands 7 in the  
20 affirmative. [background comments, pause]  
21 Continuation roll call the Committee on Aging.  
22 Council Member Treyger.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

24 CLERK: The vote now currently stands at  
25 8 in the affirmative. [background comments, pause]

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2 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: Should I just close  
3 out? [background comments]

4 CLERK: Final vote Committee on Aging.  
5 Both items have been adopted by the Committee 8 in  
6 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
7 abstentions.

8 CHAIRPERSON CHIN: The hearing is now  
9 adjourned. Thank you. [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 July 26, 2018