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THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**ELSIE ENCARNACIÓN**  
DEPUTY WHIP  
8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN/BRONX

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RULES, PRIVILEGES, STANDARDS,  
ETHICS & ELECTIONS

## Memorandum of Support

*LS 22909*

Date: 4/1/2026

I am writing today to express my strong support and desire to introduce LS 22909, regarding wellness checks on certain older adults during extreme weather events. During the brutal, prolonged cold snap New York City experiences in early 2026 at least 19 residents of our city passed away due to hypothermia. Those deaths were not only tragedies, but disproportionately comprised of elderly New Yorkers. In one case, a 90-year-old woman with dementia left her apartment and was unable to reenter, freezing to death. In another case, a 67-year-old man was found frozen in Manhattan despite calling 911.

These deaths and more highlight the need for New York City to take a more proactive approach to ensuring the safety of our seniors during both periods of prolonged heat and prolonged cold, especially as extreme weather events become more frequent due to global warming. Consistent wellness checks for seniors who are known to the Department of Aging and live alone or exclusively with other seniors would provide an important additional safety net to protect our seniors from harm during extreme weather events. Such checks would help ensure seniors receive care and/or support in the event of an emergency, and, further, would help assuage the fear and stress seniors may experience during these events, which itself may help both avoid any unintentionally harmful actions and improve the overall wellbeing of our seniors.

This is not an untested policy. Automated check-in systems are used by local governments in states like Oklahoma and Arkansas during extreme weather events like tornadoes and hurricanes to give peace of mind to seniors and guarantee their security. We know wellness checks can be the difference between safety and danger for many seniors during weather events like these. The changes to our climate necessitate we stop treating the safety of our seniors as a reactive policy but instead prepare for their safety as extreme weather becomes a regular occurrence for our city.

For all these reasons and more, I am introducing this legislation for the common good our New York City and our vibrant aging community. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elsie Encarnación', written in a cursive style.

Council Member Elsie Encarnación  
District 08