

Whereas, In the May 14, 2009 edition of the New York Times, it was reported that the 12.9% increase would cost the typical single-family homeowner \$900 annually compared to the \$800 annually that is currently paid; and

Whereas, The Independent Budget Office estimates that since 2001, the water rate has increased by 77%; and

Whereas, Senior citizens are considered to be a vulnerable population, particularly due to their low fixed incomes which directly affects their ability to afford basic necessities; and

Whereas, In 2006, the median household income for New York City's senior citizens was \$26,536 and continues to remain lower than the nation's median of \$30,200; and

Whereas, Additionally, in 2006, one-fifth of New Yorkers age 65 and older lived in poverty, compared to 9.9% nationwide, and about 20% of all elderly-headed households earned an annual income below \$10,000; and

Whereas, This legislation would provide additional relief for certain senior households as a tax offset from increasing water rates; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York State Legislature to pass A. 07059, an act to amend the real property tax law, in relation to senior citizen water rate relief.

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