



Council of Senior Centers & Services of NYC, Inc.

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**ACTION ALERT
MARCH 31, 2009**

MARCH 30TH CITY COUNCIL AGING BUDGET HEARING UPDATE

- **Press conference** - 80 seniors from all five boroughs stood on City Hall steps to oppose budget cuts.
- **City Hall attendance** – Over 300 seniors from across the city filled City Hall Chambers came to listen to the new DFTA Commissioner. Some testified on behalf of themselves and other seniors.

Highlights of comments made by Commissioner Lilliam Barrios Paoli:

- **No senior centers will close** - No senior centers will be closed in FY10 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010).
- **Senior center rfp** - A senior center rfp will not be released until January or February, 2010. Commissioner Paoli stated her commitment to work towards consensus with seniors, providers and advocates on the future of senior centers.
- **Borough President funds** - All Borough President funds were fully funded for FY10 and funding decisions would remain with the Borough Presidents.
- **Senior center cuts reduced** - The proposed \$5.3 million cut to senior centers will be reduced because of the infusion of Older American Act (OAA) stimulus funds. NYC is receiving about \$3 million for congregate and home-delivered meals over the next two years.
- **No NYCHA senior centers will close** - No DFTA administered NYCHA senior centers will close. The \$29.4 million that had been federal HUD dollars from NYCHA's budget used for the senior centers has been replaced with city tax levy dollars. The \$18 million City Council allocated for NYCHA had been parked at DFTA but has since been released to other city agencies for different services at NYCHA.
- **Meals-on-wheels not reduced** - The city's planned expansion of meals-on-wheels, \$1.4 million, will not be cut as stimulus money will cover the costs. CSCS will find out more details about this expansion.
- **Intergenerational programs** - Commissioner Paoli stated she is in discussion with DYCD about intergenerational programs and is hopeful of a positive outcome.
- **Case management** – Commissioner Paoli stated her intent to address case management issues and that she has asked CSCS to convene the case management agencies for recommendations. CSCS has done this and will be discussing them with the Commissioner.

CSCS will continue to oppose budget cuts and keep its members updated.

For further information, please contact Bobbie Sackman, (212) 398-6565 x226 or bsackman@cscs-ny.org.

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