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THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**CRYSTAL HUDSON**  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES, AND  
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS  
FINANCE  
HOUSING AND BUILDINGS  
LAND USE  
RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS  
STANDARDS AND ETHICS

September 22, 2025

Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez  
Commissioner, NYC Aging  
2 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10007

*Re: Protecting NYC Older Adults Against the Trump Administration*

Commissioner Cortés-Vázquez,

As members of the New York City Council Committee on Aging as well as advocates and providers of older adult services that are contracted by NYC Aging, we write to you today to request your assistance in empaneling expert groups to determine how New York City can protect our 1.5 million older adults from ongoing program and budget cuts from the Trump administration.

As you know, the Trump administration has gutted our nation's social safety net in recent months in a manner that will prove detrimental to the 61.2 million older adults across the nation. The Trump administration is cutting billions of dollars in programs that serve older New Yorkers. [Public Law 119-21](#), colloquially known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, has [slashed more than \\$1 trillion](#) from Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These cuts are estimated to [cost 1.5 million New Yorkers their health insurance](#) and 1 million New Yorkers access to food as a result of \$15 billion in cuts. Additionally, the federal government has [refused to release \\$410 million in approved funding](#) for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), including an estimated \$36 million for New York, and has [cut \\$400 million](#) in funding for AmeriCorps, which runs the popular [Silver Corps](#) volunteer program for older adults.

We do not need to explain to you the importance of strong public assistance programs in ensuring older adults — many of whom live on fixed incomes and rely on these programs to meet basic needs — can age in place in the city they have long called home, as you've been a strong partner in this work. But these cuts will reverberate

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across our city's social welfare system. Medicaid cuts will force more older adults to seek care at the city's free public health facilities. SNAP cuts will drive more older adults to Older Adult Centers for free, congregate meals. And HEAP cuts will mean more reliance on heating or cooling centers during periods of extreme weather.

As such, we request your leadership in working with all relevant stakeholders to monitor these developments and proactively plan to ensure our city's older adults maintain the benefits they need to remain in our city. Specifically, we request that you add a discussion about this matter to the agenda for the next meeting of the Cabinet for Older New Yorkers and follow-up on the discussion at subsequent meetings while these cuts remain in place. Agency representatives will be best suited to understand the on-the-ground impact of these cuts and can help identify resource and funding gaps in real time. We also request that you provide meeting minutes or a formal read-out of these discussions to our offices in real time so that we can coordinate with you on solutions.

Additionally, we request that you convene a quarterly roundtable meeting with elected officials (including members of the Committees on Aging in the New York City Council, New York State Senate, and New York State Assembly), older adult service providers & advocates, and agency staff from NYC Aging, the New York State Office for the Aging, and city & state budget offices. Such a roundtable would ensure the seamless sharing of information, coordination across all levels of government, and collective exploration of solutions to safeguard continuity of programming and secure critical funding. The first roundtable should be scheduled for before the end of this calendar year.

During your tenure as NYC Aging Commissioner, you have excelled at strengthening intergovernmental relations and coordinating a robust government response among various agencies and officials. Now is the time to leverage this expertise to push back against the Trump administration's recent attacks on older New Yorkers.

Thank you for your consideration and your tireless support for our city's aging residents. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing our partnership. Our city's older adults need us now more than ever.

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Sincerely,

**Crystal Hudson**

New York City Council Member, District 35  
Chair, Committee on Aging

**Lynn Schulman**

New York City Council Member, District 29  
Member, Committee on Aging

**Linda Lee**

New York City Council Member, District 23  
Member, Committee on Aging

**Chris Banks**

New York City Council Member, District 42  
Member, Committee on Aging

**Michael Adams**

Chief Executive Officer  
SAGE

**Catherine Chen**

Executive Director  
Asian American Federation

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Shapiro".

**Beth Shapiro**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Citymeals on Wheels

Selfhelp Community Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Kiprovski".

**Kevin Kiprovski**  
Director of Public Policy  
LiveOn NY

United Neighborhood Houses