



FROM THE OFFICE OF MARGARET S. CHIN  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER – DISTRICT 1 MANHATTAN

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**\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5/9/2011

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## **Opening Remarks from today's hearing on Resolution 700**

Council member Chin opened the hearing, saying, "Resolution 0700 calls upon the New York State Legislature to renew and strengthen the Rent Laws, which protect approximately two million residents in New York City and its surrounding counties.

Now that the State budget has been passed -- and integral services have been cut for many lower and working class families -- the need for stronger rent protections for tenants in New York City is even greater. These apartments are one of our foremost sources of affordable housing in our city. They are a foothold for working families, single parents, recent immigrants, and seniors -- without which, they could not afford to live in New York City.

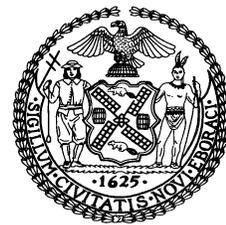
This resolution is necessary to show Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature how important rent regulation and eviction protection is to New York City residents. We all know that predatory landlords have a history of harassing long-term tenants in an effort to end rent protections in their buildings. If we allow rent regulations and eviction protection to expire, we will be condoning this activity.

With this Resolution, the City Council will call on Albany to renew the rent control laws already in place and eliminate provisions that have heightened the shortage of affordable housing and repeal the 1971 "Urstadt Law," which ended New York City's ability to regulate itself in this matter.

Rent regulations are set to expire in a little over one month. Legislation to renew and strengthen the rent laws has already passed the State Assembly, thanks to the leadership of Speaker Silver and the Assembly Democrats.

Now, we need the State Senate to pass a re-authorization and strengthening of these laws, so that our Governor can sign into law the extension and strengthening of these laws which he has promised. Today, we will hear from New Yorkers who are directly affected by rent control and rent stabilization. These tenants will not be able to fight back and protect their affordable housing if rent regulations are allowed to expire."

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