

Senior Center Funding is Restored



By Jerry Cao
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New York State Senator Daniel Squadron visited one of the senior centers in Manhattan on March 31, 2011. He notified the seniors the Title XX funds were fully restored by Albany. His next step is to monitor and ensure that the funds will be returned to the centers.

BRC Senior Center has over 500 members. Senator Squadron mentioned that a senior center such as this with a large capacity should not be closed. Also, Senator Squadron gave thanks to all the seniors who have attended the City Hall rally and protested against the budget cuts.

Moreover, New York City Councilwoman Margaret Chin also gave thanks to those seniors. She collected 1,315 signatures on a petition opposing the senior center cuts. She sent the petition to Governor Cuomo. The petition helps play a very important role in preventing budget cuts. The petition helped the 105 seniors centers which were on the cutting list to remain open.

A lot of BRC seniors said they don't want to go to another senior center because it is very difficult for them to adopt to a new environment again. As a result, most of them will choose to stay home rather than go to another senior center. One of the senior from the center felt very concerned because centers have historically been targeted by the government for budget cuts. When it happens, the feeling of insecurity would rise among those seniors.

Another senior, Min Yu Ping, mentioned she has been in the United States already twenty years. She is 76 years old now. She lives in Chinatown and goes to the BRC Senior Center three times a day for meals. By walking from home to the center, she was able to build up strength and

develop good exercise habits which has significantly improved her health. She has been doing it for five years, and she continues to do it now. She said the BRC senior center is the best place to meet friends, exercise, and it helps her to remain self-reliant. If the center closed, she would just want to stay home rather than go to another center.

Senator Daniel Squadron mentioned that he would try his best to prevent the budget cuts. He said the social benefits are essential to the low income citizens. He supported the government in the notion that the government should raise taxes among the millionaires social group, rather than raise the taxes in general. Because of the terrible economy, the lower income people need more help from the government. Senator Squadron also stated that in order for our voices to be heard, we need to stay together.

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