



Commissioner Donna M. Corrado, Ph.D.

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Mayor, DFTA, City Council speaker release ‘Aging in Place’ guide to help older New Yorkers

- Nearly 1.4 million adults age 60 and over live in New York City
- Ninety-six percent of older New Yorkers remain in their apartments rather than relocate
- “Aging in Place” recommends dozens of exterior and interior upgrades to benefit seniors and the disabled

NEW YORK – Today, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Department for the Aging Commissioner Donna Corrado, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Margaret Chin, who chairs the Committee on the Aging, announced the release of a guide of recommended upgrades and modifications that building owners can make to help New York’s growing senior population age in place with dignity.

Nearly 1.4 million adults age 60 and over live in New York City, and that number is projected to increase by more than 40 percent over the next 24 years to almost 2 million people in 2040. Additionally, with 96 percent of older New Yorkers choosing to stay in their apartments rather than relocate, according to an [AARP survey](#), the “[Aging in Place Guide for Building Owners: Recommended Age-Friendly Residential Building Upgrades](#)” provides much-needed guidance on how to make life easier for older New Yorkers who have come to call their apartments home over the years.

Recommendations include exterior upgrades, such as the building of ramps to increase mobility and the installation of adequate lighting to increase visibility, as well as interior upgrades, such as the installation of bathroom grab bars and non-slip flooring to prevent falls. The guide suggests dozens of modifications that could also be beneficial to disabled tenants.

“Protecting the health, safety and well-being of all our residents, no matter their age, background or the borough they call home, is one of our greatest priorities,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “I encourage all building owners to review this guide and consider making some of these important modifications. Our older residents play an important role in our communities, and by ensuring they can age with grace and dignity, we can build a brighter, stronger future for all New Yorkers.”

“So many seniors are held captive in their homes because of a lack of accessibility,” said **DFTA Commissioner Donna Corrado**. “With this guide, concerned landlords can make necessary accommodations to allow seniors to age in place safely and in communities of their choice.”

New York City Local Law 51, which called for DFTA to create the guide as part of the City's [Age-Friendly NYC](#) initiative, was first introduced by Council Speaker Mark-Viverito, Council Member Chin and several other Council Members. Mayor de Blasio signed the bill into law in June 2015.

“New York City’s seniors overwhelmingly express the desire to age in place in their longtime homes and communities. As the population of older New Yorkers continues to grow, it’s critical that older New Yorkers have the resources necessary to live independently and safely in their residences so that they may age with dignity,” said **Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito**. “This guide will connect property owners with tools and information to make sure that seniors can continue their valuable contribution to the vibrant life of their neighborhoods for years to come. The New York City Council is proud to support our older New Yorkers, and I thank Council Member Margaret Chin and the Department for the Aging for their commitment to ensuring that our seniors have the respect and dignity they deserve.”

“When it comes to aging in New York City, we need to focus not only on quantity of years, but on quality of life for those living in residential buildings – many of which are older than the seniors they are built to house,” said **Council Member Margaret Chin**, chair of the Committee on Aging. “This guide gives building owners the tools they need to make their properties more age-friendly, and will help thousands of New Yorkers age in place in the communities they have fostered through the years. I thank Speaker Mark-Viverito for leading the way on this issue, as well as the Department for the Aging and the American Institute of Architects New York for making this guide a reality.”

The guide was developed through a contract with the American Institute of Architects New York Design for Aging Committee. Created in 2010, the AIANY Design for Aging Committee aims to increase public awareness of the needs of the aging and elderly in an urban environment.

The committee coordinated a 21-member advisory panel of City agencies that included the Department of Buildings, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities; nonprofit organizations; community partners; and businesses. The panel assisted with the creation of the guide.

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