



Testimony

of

Otis Pitts

Assistant Commissioner, Environmental Health

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

before the

New York City Council Committee on Aging

on

Intro 411

April 23, 2018

City Hall – Council Chambers

New York, NY

Good morning Chairperson Chin and members of the Committee on Aging. I am Otis Pitts, Assistant Commissioner in the Division of Environmental Health at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. On behalf of Commissioner Bassett, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Intro 411.

The Department permits and inspects food service establishments under Article 81 of the New York City Health Code, which defines “food service establishment” as a place where food is provided to the consumer whether it is provided free of charge or sold, and whether consumption occurs on or off the premises. Our regulated establishments range from restaurants and mobile food units to cafeterias, caterers, and food operations within charitable organizations. Social Adult Day Cares that serve food to clients may be included in this category as well, and are required to be permitted and inspected by the Department if they meet the Health Code’s definition of a food service establishment.

The Department is working with the Department for the Aging (DFTA) to identify Social Adult Day Cares, and then will determine which ones are covered under the Health Code. We have begun the process of inspecting and permitting these facilities, and will soon send letters to all Social Adult Day Cares registered with DFTA. This letter will notify them of the process for applying for a food service establishment permit.

The Department supports the intent of Intro 411, which would require the Department to annually inspect social adult day cares classified as food service establishments, and report on these activities. We are committed to working with DFTA and the city’s Social Adult Day Care facilities to regulate the proper entities as food service establishments, and we look forward to working with Council on this piece of legislation.

Thank you. I’m happy to take any questions.