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## **Council Member Margaret Chin Honored By LiveOn NY for her Extraordinary Advocacy on Behalf of Older New Yorkers**

**(January 20, 2015 – New York City)** LiveOn NY, formerly known as the Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York (CSCS), today presented **New York City Council Member Margaret Chin** with its first-ever **Leadership in Aging Award** in recognition of her extraordinary and persistent advocacy on behalf of older New Yorkers. The award was presented at LiveOn NY's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Aging.

Council Member Chin's accomplishments on behalf of New York City's aging population are numerous. She successfully secured millions of dollars in new funding last year for the Department for the Aging – the first such increase to aging services after years of relentless cuts. Under her leadership as the Chair of the Aging Committee, CM Chin worked successfully to allocate money to ensure that vulnerable older New Yorkers would be able to take home an extra weekend meal from their local senior centers. She won needed funding for elder abuse victim services and other critical programs.

Elected to the New York City Council in 2010 to represent District 1 in Lower Manhattan, CM Chin helped lead the City Council's enactment of **Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption** (SCRIE) legislation that increased eligibility to households with incomes of \$50,000. The program freezes the rents of eligible senior citizens. She also successfully passed legislation to prevent further proliferation of "pop up" adult day care programs that fraudulently spend Medicaid dollars by serving seniors who are not in need of adult day care services.

In presenting the award, Bobbie Sackman, director of public policy of LiveOn NY, said, "Council Member Margaret Chin is a true champion for New York's older adults. We are honored that she accepted this award and are proud to be her partner as we work together to ensure that our seniors have the support and services they need to live on into their later years with grace, confidence and dignity."

Council Member Chin said, "I am deeply grateful and honored to receive this award, and I would also like to recognize LiveOn NY for their tireless advocacy work on behalf of New York City's senior citizens. It is so important to have strong partners in the push to improve services and quality of life for older New Yorkers from all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Last year was a great one for seniors, with new funding and services instead of the budget cuts that had plagued so many vulnerable New Yorkers in previous years.

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"I pledge to continue that work by leading the City Council's Committee on Aging and working alongside my Council colleagues to promote legislation and discourse that will improve the safety and security of all our seniors, because they deserve nothing less," CM Chin added.

"Margaret Chin is an exemplary public servant, a tireless advocate for her constituents and an important voice in the fight for policies that uplift our communities," said Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. "As Chair of the City Council's Committee on Aging, Council Member Chin champions the issues that matter most to our growing senior population, including the passage of expanded SCRIE coverage for thousands of older New Yorkers and enhanced funding for senior services and programs. Council Member Margaret Chin is a leader in making New York City a place where seniors have the support they need to age with confidence and dignity, and I am proud to call her a colleague and friend."

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**ABOUT LiveOn NY:** LiveOn NY, formerly the Council of Senior Centers and Services (CSCS), is a non-profit organization dedicated to making New York a better place to age. Founded in 1979, CSCS is recognized as a leader in aging that connects resources, advocates for positive change, and builds, supports and fosters innovation. Our goal is to help all New Yorkers age with confidence, grace and vitality.