



The Public Advocate for the City of New York
Betsy Gotbaum
Public Advocate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE REACHES OUT TO SENIORS Hotline Provides Information & Referral Assistance

(New York, NY, May 30, 2002) – Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum wants senior citizens to know that they can call her when they are having problems dealing with city agencies or getting services for which they qualify. Her Senior Action Line, which can be reached at 212-669-7670, is here to do just that.

“Senior citizens are one of the most vulnerable populations in our city and we should go the extra mile to provide them with the services and help they need,” said Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum. “My Senior Action line offers senior citizens with one stop shopping for help on everything from housing and employment to information on programs and services for which they qualify.”

In addition to being solely dedicated to serving seniors, the action line is also staffed by seniors who volunteer their time to answer questions, provide referrals, and expedite agency complaint resolution. “Although seniors have for the most part the same kinds of problems other constituents have, they appreciate talking to other seniors who not only provide assistance, but also understand their concerns,” said Liz Blaney, Deputy Public Advocate Ombudsman Services.

The Public Advocate is a strong supporter of her office’s ombudsman role. “Our telephone help lines are going to be the center piece of my tenure as Public Advocate. We plan to work from the ground up and let New Yorkers complaints tell us what agencies we should investigate and try to reform.”

The Public Advocate’s Office is currently seeking senior citizens to volunteer for the action line. Anyone interested should contact Latisha Bell, the Public Advocate’s Volunteer Coordinator.

**Tell your senior citizen readers about
The Senior Action Line 212-669-7670**