



# Testimony of University Settlement before the New York City Council

## Oversight - Protecting, Preserving and Supporting Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in New York City

Committee on Aging,  
Council Member Crystal Hudson, Chair

Submitted by Sofiya Pidzyraylo,  
Director of Village View NORC,  
University Settlement

June 4, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on protecting, preserving, and supporting Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) in New York City. My name is Sofiya Pidzyraylo, Director of Village View NORC at University Settlement, my testimony will focus on the important supportive service programs that NORCs provide for older New Yorkers.

University Settlement is one of New York City's most dynamic social justice institutions, with an impressive legacy as the first settlement house in the nation. For 138 years, University Settlement has been an anchor in the immigrant communities with low income where we work, offering pioneering programs in early childhood care and education, youth development, eviction prevention, literacy, theater and visual arts, older adult services, and mental health. Each year, we engage over 40,000 New Yorkers through our network of 30+ sites in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Our mission is to empower residents by building on their strengths and knowledge through comprehensive, quality services that meet the current needs of the community, innovation that anticipates future needs, and advocacy on behalf of the community and its residents.

First, I would like to thank the City Council for its ongoing support for NORCs. Because of your enthusiasm for this program, we have been able to bring resources and attention to the needs of a large and rapidly growing older adult population. Additionally, without the NORC Initiative, there would be no City-funding directly allocated to support Neighborhood NORCs, which provide services in areas of the City with buildings under six-stories tall.

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LEAD. ACT. IMPACT. 領導。行動。影響。  
LIDERA. ACTÚA. IMPACTA. अनुवादेश करारवादेश अरर  
DIRIGEZ. AGISSEZ. IMPACTEZ. រដ្ឋបាល .រដ្ឋបាល .រដ្ឋបាល  
ЛІДИРИЇ. ДЕЙСТВУЇ. ВПІВАН. 领导。行动。影响。



