

30,000 Homes for Homeless New Yorkers

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

As fellow elected officials working to build a better New York City for all, we applaud your administration's efforts to address the city's ongoing homelessness crisis. However, with a record 63,000 people – including nearly 24,000 children – sleeping in shelters each night, it is clear that more must be done. We must use every available tool at our disposal to reduce the number of New Yorkers relegated to shelters and the streets, and so we are asking the City to double the number of deeply subsidized affordable housing units targeted specifically to families and individuals in shelters.

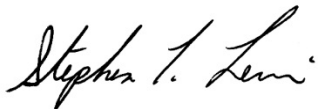
Your *Housing New York 2.0* plan commits to creating or preserving an ambitious 300,000 units of affordable housing. Unfortunately, only 15,000 of those units will be dedicated for homeless households – a paltry 5 percent. Furthermore, most of the 15,000 set-aside units in your current plan will be preserved units, not new construction, and thus will not be available for homeless families until they become vacant, which could be years. HPD predicts no more than a few hundred units will be available for occupancy by homeless families in each year of the *Housing New York 2.0* plan. With well over 15,000 families and more than 16,000 single adults sleeping in shelters each night, this is nowhere near the level of production necessary to meaningfully reduce record homelessness in New York City.

In contrast, in the 1980s, when the shelter census was only a fraction of what it is today, Mayor Ed Koch created nearly 15,700 units of homeless housing – constituting *more than 10 percent* of the units in his 10-year plan. Nearly all of these units were immediately available for occupancy by homeless families in shelters, contributing to the significant decreases in homelessness during this time period.

In order to align your admirable affordable housing plan with our city's dire need to combat record homelessness, we implore you to **increase the total number of housing units for homeless households to 30,000, with 24,000 of these units financed and created as new construction.** These commitments are necessary if we are to meet the unprecedented need for permanent housing for homeless New Yorkers and meaningfully reduce the shelter census.

This plan will require the City to build roughly **2,000 new units of homeless housing each year** between now and 2026. This level of production is ambitious but feasible given the progress that has been made so far. New construction is already ahead of pace, City investment has increased to \$1.3 billion per year to meet the revised goals, and term sheets specifying requirements for capital subsidies have been updated to increase incentives for units serving homeless people. **Given these building blocks, homeless housing production on the scale we recommend is not only financially achievable, but morally imperative.** As Mayor of our great city, you must take the lead in providing relief to the thousands of men, women, and children who are living with the trauma of homelessness every day.

Sincerely,



Council Member Stephen Levin, Chair, Committee on General Welfare



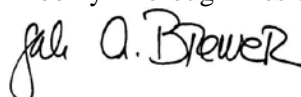
Public Advocate Letitia James



Comptroller Scott M. Stringer



Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams



Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

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Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz



Council Member Ben Kallos (Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus)



Council Member Keith Powers (Vice Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus)



Council Member Carlos Menchaca (Vice Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus)



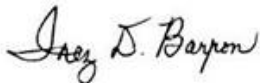
Council Member Adrienne Adams



Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel



Council Member Diana Ayala



Council Member Inez Barron



Council Member Fernando Cabrera



Council Member Margaret Chin



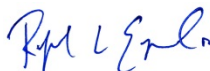
Council Member Andrew Cohen



Council Member Costa Constantinides



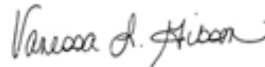
Council Member Robert Cornegy



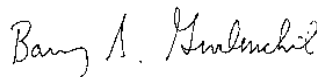
Council Member Rafael Espinal



Council Member Mathieu Eugene



Council Member Vanessa Gibson



Council Member Barry Grodenchik



Council Member Peter Koo



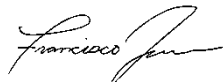
Council Member Brad Lander



Council Member Mark Levine



Council Member I. Daneek Miller



Council Member Francisco Moya



Council Member Bill Perkins



Council Member Antonio Reynoso



Council Member Donovan J. Richards

30,000 Homes for Homeless New Yorkers



Council Member Carlina Rivera



Council Member Helen Rosenthal



Council Member Rafael Salamanca



Council Member Ritchie Torres



Council Member Mark Treyger



Council Member James Van Bramer



Council Member Jumaane Williams