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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

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**MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE
2014 GALA**

Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

I'm honored to receive this award. Thank you, Katrina. Our country's oldest weekly magazine is in great hands, and I'm proud to call her a New Yorker and a friend. Special thanks to tonight's emcee, Sally Kohn—an activist, CNN contributor, and columnist for the Daily Beast. And of course, let me also thank all members of Campaign for America's Future, as well as great leadership from co-founders and co-directors Robert Borosage and Roger Hickey. You're a powerful ally in our efforts to build an even stronger progressive moment and unite voices across the country calling for bold action on climate change, jobs, and inequality.

Congratulations to my fellow honorees. It's a big night for New York. Let us recognize Lee Saunders, who helped lead DC 37, New York's largest public employee union, and now—as president of ASCME—represents 1.6 million workers. Let's also congratulate Sara Jayaraman, a compelling advocate for some of our most vulnerable workers, who fights for fair working conditions and wages in restaurants—where so often is not the case.

Campaign for America's Future and I share some major concerns, including combatting the nation's growing income inequality. It is truly the crisis of our time. Too many hardworking families are struggling, with the buying power of minimum wage less than it was in 1964. And a single parent working full-time at federal minimum wage makes just \$14,500—which is \$1,230 below the poverty line.

Clearly, there's an urgent need for bold action. And New York City is leading by example—it is what I like to call a "laboratory for progressive policies and innovative solutions."

Take early childhood education. Just last month, more than 50,000 4-year-olds entered a classroom for the first time. Next year, we'll have "Pre-K for All," with over 70,000 seats for our youngest learners. But pre-K is only the beginning—we're building a comprehensive set of supports.

My administration is also working to build or preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next decade. That's enough for almost half a million families—more than the populations of Miami or Atlanta.

We've also expanded paid sick leave to half a million more New Yorkers across the five boroughs. And we've increased our living wage to \$13.13 an hour, while also covering more workers.

Last month, we have also announced a firm commitment to an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Because we know that global climate change is a critical environmental issue—one I know

Campaign for America's Future cares deeply about. But it's also an inequality issue. Because when hazardous weather hits, poor people hurt the most.

I'm proud we're not only changing things in New York City, but also part of something bigger. Take the new U.S. Conference of Mayors Cities of Opportunity Task Force we've launched earlier this year. Activists across the country are putting equality issues on the agenda, front and center. An important part of this is you, here today—Campaign for America's Future. You know, Robert Kennedy said something about the Future—he said it is “not a gift, but an achievement.”

I look forward to working to build a better future together. Thank you.

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