



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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**CONTACT:** [pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov), (212) 788-2958

**REACTIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS: DE BLASIO ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES PLAN  
TO CREATE 15,000 UNITS OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

**Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie** said, "The Assembly Majority commends Mayor Bill de Blasio for his proposal to create 15,000 new units of supportive housing that will transform the quality of life for thousands of New Yorkers. In our mission to put the needs of families first, we know that access to affordable and sustainable housing is one of the most difficult obstacles facing New Yorkers across the state, especially in the City of New York. In this year's enacted state budget, the Assembly Majority fought for, and delivered more than \$435 million to combat the homelessness crisis plaguing our communities. The Mayor's proposal will take these efforts to the next level and we are confident that this marks the beginning of a brighter chapter for the families who need it most."

"Supportive housing embodies a crucial principle: smart investment in getting people the help and the tools they need is what solves problems like long-term homelessness, not stigmatization or needless criminalization," said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. "With today's announcement, the mayor is committing to a major and long-needed investment that will go a long way toward closing gaps in our efforts to address homelessness and mental health."

"I thank Mayor de Blasio for stepping up and setting our city on course to create thousands of needed units of supportive housing. We face real challenges with domestic violence, homelessness, mental illness, and substance issue, challenges we cannot economically or morally afford to ignore. Supportive housing is a caring solution that can put troubled New Yorkers on the right track, a safe and healthy approach we can all get behind," said **Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams**.

"New York City has always been a beacon of opportunity and hope for a better future. I applaud Mayor de Blasio's efforts to increase vital support for our most vulnerable New Yorkers," said **Congressman Charles B. Rangel**. "Having a place to call home should not be considered a luxury for anyone, especially at a time when developers are building more luxury housing in our city."

"There are nearly 60,000 homeless people in New York City, many of them veterans of the Armed Forces or survivors of domestic violence. We have a shared responsibility to provide these individuals with access to affordable housing as well as the services that are critical to their health and safety," said **Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke**. "I commend Mayor de Blasio for his commitment to expanding access to supportive housing that includes both mental and physical health care services, substance abuse programs, and other necessary services. This investment in the people of New York City will allow individuals who are now living in shelters or on the streets to ultimately transition into permanent housing."

"Supportive housing is crucial in places like the Bronx, where vulnerable populations not only need access to affordable housing, they also need access to services and resources to help them cope with their circumstances. This initiative will help thousands of individuals and help reduce the financial and physical burden on homeless shelters, hospitals, mental health institutions, and incarceration," said **Congressman José Serrano**.

"By smartly leveraging city and private funding, this undertaking will open housing opportunities for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. I applaud Mayor de Blasio for unveiling this important program and look forward to working with him to further expand affordable housing in our city," said **Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez**.

**State Senator Marty Golden** said, "Supportive housing will be an effective long term solution to our growing homeless problem. Not only are individuals provided with safe clean housing, they are offered counseling and programs to provide the necessary help to address their individual needs. I commend Mayor Bill de Blasio for his commitment of 15,000 units over 15 years and I am confident that New York State will agree to develop even more. Supportive housing provides an environment in which we can deal with the homeless with dignity, respect and care."

"I commend Mayor de Blasio for being a leader in the effort to tackle the challenge of homelessness. Truly confronting this formidable challenge will require sustained effort across government. In Albany, we should complement the efforts Mayor de Blasio announces today by strengthening supports to anyone at-risk for homelessness and strengthening the supports for pathways out of homelessness. Every New Yorker benefits when all New Yorkers have the firm footing needed to contribute to our community," said **State Senator Jesse Hamilton**.

**State Senator Brad Hoylman** said, "Mayor de Blasio's announcement today of 15,000 units of supportive housing is a bold step towards a solution to the city's homelessness crisis. Supportive housing is an innovative approach that will bring down the number of homeless New Yorkers. I am grateful to Mayor de Blasio and VOCAL NY for their commitment to improving the lot of New York's homeless, and look forward to working with my colleagues in Albany and New York City to ensure it is carried out successfully."

"Supportive housing has proved to be an essential model in the fight against homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse. It's a win-win, saving taxpayer money while providing desperately needed housing and services. The Mayor's commitment to building 15,000 new units is a big deal - it represents half of the 30,000 units advocates say are needed in the city to get people off the streets. New York City has once again stepped up to the plate; now we need Governor Cuomo to follow the Mayor's lead," said **State Senator Liz Krueger**.

"Mayor de Blasio's investment of \$3 Billion for supportive housing is incredibly commendable," said **State Senator Kevin Parker**. "With the homeless rate rising, it is no secret that housing is a much needed commodity in our city, and the aggressive action taken by the Mayor not only demonstrates his steadfast commitment to ensuring that all New Yorkers have a place to live, especially those families and individuals most in need, but it shows he is in tune with our city and will take the bold steps to get things done."

"Housing in the shelters is meant to be temporary, but unfortunately, more and more families are finding themselves living in a shelter for much longer than they intended," said **State Senator Toby Stavisky**. "It is difficult for people to raise a child in a shelter. The Pan American Shelter in my own district has mothers who leave at 5 a.m to take their children via public transportation all the way to the Bronx. Providing permanent housing will allow for some consistency for children so that they may attend neighborhood schools and truly feel at home. I commend the mayor for his efforts in giving the homeless a true chance of success."

"When I became Chair of the Assembly Social Services Committee this year it became abundantly clear that one of the most impactful actions government can take to combat homelessness is to provide a home for our most vulnerable citizens and offer them critical services to ensure stability. Supportive housing provides that lifeline for so many and offers promise to those suffering from mental illness, domestic violence victims, veterans, and many more. One hundred thirty three Assembly Members concur and have called for the production of 30,000 units in New York City. Mayor de Blasio answered that call, marshalling the resources of New York City government to provide more units than all previous supportive housing agreements that have come before. It is time for the Governor to follow suit," said **Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, Chair of the Social Services Committee**.

“New York City faces a growing crisis of homelessness due the rising costs of housing; as such many people who love our city are being forced out. This major initiative by Mayor de Blasio is most welcome at this time, and provides hope for the thousands of New Yorkers who are desperate for truly affordable housing. I am pleased to support Mayor de Blasio, as he moves in the right direction with a very positive response to a need which we must address,” said **Assembly Member N. Nick Perry, Chair of the NYS Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus.**

“I’m thankful to the De Blasio administration for their commitment to provide funding for an additional 15,000 supportive housing units. This is a \$3 billion investment in the future of our city” said **Assembly Member Carmen E. Arroyo.** “I commend and support Mayor de Blasio in this tremendous project to address the city’s homeless situation”.

"I am inspired by Mayor de Blasio's step to address the needs of so many of our fellow New Yorkers who find themselves homeless," said **Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte.** "Supportive housing is not a hand-out, but instead a hand-up to transition individuals and families to help stabilize them. The billions of dollars to be invested in this program will not only provide homes for New Yorkers, it will provide them with some of the additional supports they will need."

“As Chair of the NYS Assembly Veterans committee, I am grateful that the City of New York's plan for supportive housing has a component to address the issue of Veterans homelessness. I applaud Mayor de Blasio for including a housing option that includes the many services necessary for a healthy and supportive environment specifically for our Veterans,” said **Assembly Member Michael Dendekker.**

"With nearly 60,000 people sleeping in New York City shelters each night, roughly 24,000 of them children, supportive housing is affordable housing that not only provides a place to sleep, but also services such as job training and case management. Further, supportive affordable housing is instrumental in keeping families, seniors, and veterans in their homes instead of in homeless shelters. I would like to commend Mayor de Blasio in his effort to create more supportive housing for New York City’s most vulnerable. As a new legislative session approaches, I will fight for more supportive housing to serve the needs of individuals and families throughout the New York State,” said **Assembly Member Michael Miller.**

“New York City’s homeless crisis demands decisive action,” said **Assembly Member Francisco Moya.** “Investing in supportive housing for our homeless families is not only humane but practical--it will help get people off the streets, out of the shelter system, and into more permanent housing. I commend Mayor de Blasio for taking on this critical issue.”

"Supportive housing is a must for any kind of realistic solution to homelessness. I commend the Mayor for recognizing the urgency of this need and committing such substantial funding to new supportive units and programming. Every New Yorker deserves a safe home and I look forward to working with the Mayor to keep working to end homelessness in New York City,” said **Assembly Member Daniel Quart.**

"On the heels of the current homelessness challenge facing our great city, this mayoral supportive-housing initiative is the right prescription to combat long-term homelessness. Our duty as elected representatives largely entails ensuring the well-being of all our residents and this initiative will guarantee the well-being of our most vulnerable residents,” said **Assembly Member Jose Rivera.**

"To tackle the rising tide of homelessness, the de Blasio Administration's infusion of \$3 billion toward 15,000 units of supportive housing will go a long way in moving those New Yorkers who have fallen on hard times or who are struggling with addiction or mental illness off the streets and into supportive environments," said **Assembly Member Linda B. Rosenthal, Chair of the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.** "New York City will be closer than ever to eradicating homelessness, easing suffering and improving lives by providing people with permanent housing as well as crucial, ongoing support services."

"We commend Mayor de Blasio's efforts to address the increased homeless presence in our city, " said **Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright**, "but more must be done at every level of government. It is simply unacceptable for persons to be living on the streets in our neighborhoods. Individuals must receive quality social services interventions as well."

"This is a program all New Yorkers should be proud of. We know that supportive housing is the most effective approach to eliminating homelessness, giving people the best long-term hope for achieving safe and stable living environments. I applaud Mayor de Blasio for stepping up to the plate and making this important commitment," said **Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon**.

"The de Blasio administration's announcement of a commitment to fund 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years is a bold declaration that we have to do more than ever before to help those in greatest need of housing. This administration has seen the need and is rising to the occasion," said **Council Member Stephen Levin, Chair of the Committee on Social Services**.

"Mentally ill New Yorkers too often fall through the cracks of society because they lack access to safe, affordable housing and basic city services," said **Council Member Daniel Dromm**. " As elected officials, we must do all that we can to ensure that these men and women live happy, healthy lives. I applaud Mayor de Blasio's plan to create 15,000 units of supportive housing for this vulnerable community, and will continue to advocate for more resources for people living with mental illness in the City of New York."

"I applaud the Administration for taking this major step to address the homelessness crisis in our City. Day after day we are seeing more and more individuals living in our shelters at record numbers. In my district, where the city houses a large concentration of homeless shelters, I am seeing these shelters bursting at seams, and hard-working families struggling to find a place to live, due to the high cost-of-living. This plan will help thousands of families across New York City to gain access to a home, with the services they need," said **Council Member Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.**

"All New Yorkers deserve to have a safe place to call home. The creation of 15,000 housing units for our most vulnerable residents over the next 15 years has the potential to drastically improve the quality-of-life for so many families and individuals in our city," said **Council Member Mathieu Eugene**. "Housing remains a top priority for the residents of our city and I commend Mayor Bill de Blasio for working to ensure that all New Yorkers receive quality accommodations."

"We cannot address New York's homelessness crisis without first addressing this City's need for more housing and better coordination of social services. Supportive housing presents a clear solution to these problems and I am thankful that the Administration has announced that they will provide funding for an additional 15,000 supportive housing units. This is a \$3 billion investment in the well-being of New Yorkers and the future of this City. I thank Mayor de Blasio for his leadership and his dedication to ending homelessness in the City of New York," said **Council Member Vanessa Gibson**.

"Supportive housing for 15,000 of our city's most vulnerable will help us get our homeless out of shelters, our patients out of hospitals, and provide protection for victims of domestic violence. \$2.6 billion represent an unprecedented investment in supportive housing, that would have forestalled current conditions, had they been made years ago," said **Council Member Ben Kallos**. "Thank you to Mayor Bill de Blasio for his commitment to supportive housing and for providing the funding to make it happen. I look forward to working with Mayor de Blasio to fund and find sites to build new supportive housing throughout our city including in my district on the Upper East Side."

"The best way to end homelessness is to help people find a way home. "Creating permanent, supportive housing for homeless individuals and families is the best way to do that," said **Council Member Brad Lander**. "We've developed supportive housing in Park Slope. It works here, and it works in neighborhoods all across New York City. Thanks to Mayor de Blasio, and congratulations to the Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing, and especially to our

friends at the Coalition for the Homeless, VOCAL-NY, and the Supportive Housing Network of NY. Now its time for Governor Cuomo and New York State to step up and match this commitment."

"As a city we cannot turn a blind eye to the frequency which we see homelessness all around us," said **Council Member Donovan Richards Richards**. "With over 58,000 people in New York who do not have a home to live in we must be very aggressive in addressing this matter. Too many families, even those of working people, are homeless or in our shelter system. I stand in support of Mayor de Blasio's commitment to supportive housing, his courage and leadership on this matter puts us in the right direction as a City."

"With today's announcement Mayor De Blasio proves yet again his dedication to making New York City more affordable for all, especially those who need our city's government the most. Our Mayor is a visionary, consistently creating plans, like this one, that reach well beyond his time in office to correct the path of our city and close the gap between our two cities. Supportive housing is a proven method of delivering services while making a systemic change in the lives of those within it. I commend the Mayor for his forward thinking plan and dedication to serving those who need our city the most," said **Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez**.

"Additional supportive housing will help bring the homeless out of shelters so they can rebuild their lives. The Mayor's \$3 billion commitment is an investment in the future of the thousands of struggling New Yorkers," said **Council Member Helen Rosenthal**.

"The best way to prevent homelessness is to keep people who are struggling in their homes in the first place," said **City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer**. "I welcome and wholeheartedly support the investment by Mayor de Blasio which fights to combat the root of the issue of homelessness - housing insecurity."

"As chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings, I applaud the Mayor's leadership in making this unprecedented announcement. It has been too long time since our City has had a true humanitarian approach to providing housing resources for New Yorkers with the highest needs. Tomorrow, my colleague Council Member Steve Levin and I will co-chair a joint hearing to discuss supportive housing issues and I look forward to getting more in-depth details about this initiative as funding is secured for its implementation," said **Council Member Jumaane Williams, Chair of the Committee on Housing and Buildings**.

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