



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM TO SAVE  
CITY'S REMAINING AFFORDABLE MITCHELL-LAMA DEVELOPMENTS**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Darryl, I just want to tell you – first of all, Darryl was too modest. He is, he is a New York success story and let's commend him. A hard working man, an immigrant came here, got his education, raised his family, now running his own business. Let's thank Darryl for all he is doing.

[Applause]

And for all he is doing for this building because, you know, all that great work that we talked about –

[Audience chanting]

Alright, get it out of your system.

[Audience chanting]

Okay, thank you, thank you everyone.

[Audience chanting]

Let's talk about what we are here to talk about.

[Audience chanting]

Thank you. Thank you. Okay. Everybody, Darryl talked about – Darryl talked about what has been done in this building. Now you know the history of Mitchell-Lamas Housing. This housing was created years and years ago to be a place for working people to have stable and affordable housing. And it was planned for decades ahead. But it was not planned to be permanent. That was the problem. Mitchell-Lamas Housing, for years it was great until suddenly the bill came due if you will. And these buildings started to be threatened and their future, and your futures, your

ability to live in your own building, your own apartment – like so many tens of thousands of New Yorkers was threatened.

That's why we had to do something different and Darryl's exactly right. It was important for the City of New York to step in and provide the help and provide the support to keep this building going. Because we have seen a lot of people lose their housing in this city, right? And we want it to stop. We want to protect peoples' housing. We want people to be able to live in their own neighborhood.

And so this is how we do it. We've got a beautiful building here, and wonderful people who have made a community here. And it is so important to provide the help to keep this building strong. So that's what today is about. Now, I've got to tell you, it's an example, it's an example of what it means to get things right. You can see what this means for people's everyday lives. And it's about families. You know, Darryl showed me his apartment. It's him, his wife, and his daughter – by the way his daughter just graduated from Goucher College. Let's give him a round of applause for that.

[Applause]

And here's the thing to remember, when we talk about affordable housing, we are talking about families, we are talking about people being able to have affordable housing now but also passing on those apartments to their children.

[Applause]

Right?

[Applause]

That's what we are fighting to protect. That's what we are fighting to protect. So today we are going to talk about a new plan the City has to protect this building and so many buildings like it. Not only for today, but for the future generations and that's why we are so excited by this announcement.

Now, let me tell you something. A lot of people here deserve credit. And I especially want to thank everyone at the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, everyone at the Housing Development Corporation who have been front and center in this.

[Applause]

Give a special thank you to our Housing Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer.

[Applause]

And the President of the Housing Development Corporation, Eric Enderlin, thank you.

[Applause]

I want to thank everyone who makes this building great. All the members of the Board of Directors of Ryerson Towers, thank you. Let's give them a big round of applause.

[Applause]

And then a special thank you, a good friend of mine is here. And you know her as a great advocate for the residents of Mitchell-Lamas buildings and for the community and she also happens to be the mom of one of the great members of the New York State Assembly, lets thank Marilyn Mosley for all she does.

[Applause]

Thank you Marilyn. And a great advocacy group that's supporting these changes to help Mitchell-Lamas keep going – is LiveOn NY. Let's thank LiveOn NY.

[Applause]

And lets thank the drummer, where's the drummer? Thank you, drummer.

[Applause]

You're good, you're good. I'm going to bring you with me wherever I go.

[Laughter]

So, everybody, here's another way I talk about this kind of thing, this is about keeping New York, New York. This is about keeping New York City what it is. Not – not letting it slip away. Everyone here knows, we all came up with New York City as a place for everyone. You didn't have to be rich. Right? You could be an everyday person and find a place to live. You could find a decent job, you could raise a family here. That's what we have to protect. The heart and soul of New York City is we are a place for everyone. We can't become a gilded city, we can't become a gated community, we can't become an exclusive city. It won't be the same place anymore if it's not a place for everyone.

And that's why, when you think about the Mitchell-Lama buildings, they were created with that kind of idea in mind. Working people need a place to live. And when you have a city that respects working people, it's the kind of city we believe in and it can't slip away. So today we celebrate the fact that we are finding ways to actually protect these buildings for the long haul. Now, I've got to tell you. People work so hard, working class people, middle class people in buildings like this work so hard to make ends meet never anticipated what ended up happening all around us. And I say this as a Brooklynite and I am so proud to be a Brooklynite. I am so proud to be a Brooklynite.

[Applause]

We are, by the way this whole week we have the City government focused on Brooklyn. We brought all of City government into Brooklyn with the great assistance and partnership of Borough President Eric Adams who you will hear from in a moment.

[Applause]

We're focused on Brooklyn, we love Brooklyn, but who in the world thought Brooklyn would become one of the most expensive places that you could possibly imagine? We – I never thought Brooklyn would cost this much, right. We all saw things change around us really quickly. And it is a shock, and we're still making up for that.

So that's why it's even more important to protect Mitchell-Lama buildings and to protect all the good people in them. You know when we were all watching years ago – if I had said to you 20-30 years ago there will be all sorts of million dollar homes and million dollar apartments in Brooklyn you would have said I was crazy. But now it's become the norm. That's why protecting affordable housing is more important than ever. Now look, there is a sobering reality.

Over the last 30 years about 20,000 apartments that were in the Mitchell-Lama program slipped out of it in this city. Okay, I want you to realize that. Go back to the 1980s to present. We've lost about 20,000 apartments that were affordable. We can't let that happen anymore. There is about 45,000 apartments in this city in the Mitchell-Lama buildings that now are threatened with falling out of affordability and going market rate. Our job is to stop that. Our job is to intervene. And we know that has huge consequences for everyday people. So that's what we're here to announce today. A \$250 million program to protect these apartments and keep them affordable for the long haul.

[Applause]

Now, I want to give you some good news. Even as we fight this fight, great work of our colleagues at HPD and HDC and all of the folks they work with. They have found new and better ways to save these apartments. So just in the last three years – and I want you to look at Maria and Eric and think about them and all of the people that work with them. In the last three years they have saved 11,000 Mitchell-Lama apartments in New York City.

[Applause]

That means 11,000 families that still have affordable housing who might have lost it. That's how important this is. But we're going to take what they've learned, what they've achieved and now do it on an even bigger scale. There are 15,000 apartments we're going to focus on immediately. Starting now and over the next few years to save. Fifteen thousand more families who need to stay in the buildings that they love in the neighborhoods they love. Just like everyone here loves this building and this neighborhood. So help is on the way for those families. And this \$250 million plan will keep them in their homes. That's what we believe in.

[Applause]

I'll say this finally. We announced this week that we had found our affordable housing plan was working. More and more people were getting affordable housing. The goal was to reach half a million people, half a million New Yorkers by either giving them the subsidy and support to stay in their existing apartment or build new affordable housing. That plan is more needed than ever as the cost of housing soars. We found that our plan was working so quickly that we were able to speed it up because it was ahead of schedule and that we were able to go farther. So, I announced three years ago a plan to reach half a million people, we're going to reach a quarter million more than originally anticipated.

[Applause]

So real people, real New Yorkers are going to get the affordable housing they deserve. 750,000 people total will be reached by this plan. It proves this city is great; this city is great in so many ways. The people are what make it great. But also this city gets things done. We didn't used to have an affordable housing crisis. Then it became a part of our life. Well guess what? Now we're fighting back. Now the City of New York which really knows how to do things in a big bold way. We are bold? Aren't we? We're proud New Yorkers right?

**Audience:** Yes.

**Mayor:** We have a big answer to a big problem and we're going to save the affordable housing that the people need in every neighborhood of this city and it starts right here in Ryerson Towers. Congratulations to all of you.

[Applause]

Just going to give you a moment of Español.

[Laughter]

We're covering all the ground.

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

A city affordable to all.

**Unknown:** [Inaudible]

**Mayor:** There you go, [inaudible]. With that now my honor turned to another proud Brooklynite and a strong advocate for people who need affordable housing our Public Advocate Letitia James.

[...]

**Mayor:** Thank you Tish. The next speaker is not lucky enough to be from Brooklyn but he's still a good guy.

[Laughter]

Nobody's perfect.

[Laughter]

So when our Comptroller is here that means he thinks the money is being used for a good reason. Which – we like it when the Comptroller is around that means the money is being used well. My honor to introduce our City Comptroller Scott Stringer.

[...]

**Mayor:** Thank you. Now someone who has represented you for a long time, and has fought the battle for affordable housing not only here in the community but in that very, very scary place called Albany, New York. She has – she has stood up for us, stood up for this borough, stood up for this city, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

[...]

**Mayor:** And now I want to introduce someone who started out as a community activist and then became an elected official, but she is an activist at heart. She's stood up for everyday people and now continues that work in Albany, Assembly member Jo Anne Simon.

[...]

**Mayor:** I want to just thank Jo Anne Simon because yes there was a Mr. Lama, okay, and no he was not that kind of llama with two 'l's. Okay. He was a guy, and he deserves credit as does Mr. Mitchell, well done. Well done.

Okay. Last but never least. He has been our partner in everything we have done to make Brooklyn more affordable and to keep Brooklyn a place for Brooklynites and make sure that everyday people can continue. Folks, as you heard, who went through – a lot of people here know, went through the tougher times to get to the better times are the people who should be able to stay and enjoy the neighborhoods they make great. And I know Eric Adams understands that, he fights for it every day as the powerful voice for the people of Brooklyn. You Borough President Eric Adams.

[...]

**Mayor:** Well done. So as we conclude, I just want to pick up where Eric was. Yes Marilyn – well Marilyn you must, come on. No one says no to Marilyn Mosely. We're going to add Marilyn Mosely. It wouldn't be complete. It wouldn't be complete. Marilyn.

[...]

**Mayor:** Now that Marilyn got the final word in, I will conclude. I will conclude with this – I want my brother the drummer ready- get ready, okay? Because as we conclude – as we conclude the credit goes to the people who stood up for years and years and made Brooklyn great. This victory today is your victory, let's all give each other a round of applause.

[Applause]

Alright, thank you everyone.

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