

## THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK, NY 10007

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## MAYOR ADAMS, HEALTH COMMISSIONER VASAN ANNOUNCE OPENING OF ABORTION ACCESS HUB TO ENSURE NYC REMAINS SAFE HAVEN FOR ABORTION CARE

First-of-Its-Kind Phone Line Will Confidentially Refer Callers to Abortion Care Providers as Well as Connections to Additional Financial Support, Transportation, and Lodging

New Yorkers Can Call 877-NYC-AHUB to Obtain Help Connecting to Abortion Care

**NEW YORK** — New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasan today announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind Abortion Access Hub that will ensure New York City remains a safe haven for those seeking abortion care by confidentially connecting callers to licensed abortion care providers operating within the five boroughs. If financial assistance is needed in order to obtain an abortion, navigators will connect people seeking care to clinical partners to facilitate resources, including financial support for the procedure, transportation, and/or lodging. Callers who are eligible for Medicaid enrollment will be connected to providers who can enroll patients in Medicaid. Mayor Adams announced the hub in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* this past June that effectively overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

"The *Dobbs* decision may have been the Supreme Court's latest attack on human rights and health care, but New York City will continue to be a safe haven for anyone seeking to access a safe, legal abortion," said **Mayor Adams.** "Our city's Abortion Access Hub will ensure anyone seeking an abortion will be connected to licensed providers across the five boroughs, as well as continue to access other resources and support. New York City will continue to respect, protect, and fulfill the core tenets of our fundamental right to choose, and will fight to ensure quality, affordable health care is accessible to all those who seek an abortion."

"When we are in need, there are few things more comforting than knowing that we can reach out for resources and speak to someone on the other end of the line," said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**. "This initiative gives all people and families seeking reproductive health care assistance a trusted source for information. Thank you to all the navigators that will answer the calls of those needing assistance and provide critical information

in real time. New York City is committed to continuing to stand up for the rights of women and every person seeking reproductive health care."

"New York City will not stand by passively when human rights are at stake," said **DOHMH Commissioner Dr. Vasan**. "Our city is a safe haven for so many, and we are proud to be the first in the nation to offer this type of service to people simply exercising their basic rights over their bodies and their health. When people's liberties are threatened, our city will always stand on the side of health, human rights, justice, and care for those in need."

Funded with a \$1 million investment, the hub will be staffed by New York City Abortion Access Hub navigators and managers Monday through Saturday, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Staff will include individuals who are bilingual in English and Spanish, and the nine most spoken languages and American Sign Language will be available to callers. Staff members have been trained on customer service, confidentiality, sexual and reproductive justice, and gender-inclusive services.

All calls are confidential and anonymous. No identifying information will be collected or recorded. Callers will be asked about their needs and preferences, such as preferred day of the week, location, and interest in medication abortion, as well as whether they need assistance with cost or insurance. Responses will help navigators determine caller needs for connection to resources offered by referral partners.

Additionally, in response to the *Dobbs* Supreme Court decision in June, <u>Mayor Adams has</u> <u>signed multiple bills</u> that strengthen abortion protections, make medication abortion free at all DOHMH clinics, and improved public health education so every New Yorker and person visiting New York City for reproductive health care knows their rights and can access care.

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