

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

MAYOR ADAMS RELEASES COMMUNITY DRIVEN “NYC SPEAKS ACTION PLAN”

Plan Focuses on Five Key Visionary “North Stars” to Inform Policies in Adams Administration

Part of Largest Civic Engagement Effort and Policy Survey in New York City’s History

NEW YORK – New York City Mayor Eric Adams today released the “[NYC Speaks Action Plan](#)” — created in partnership with civic and community leaders — outlining policy goals for five issue areas that are priorities for New Yorkers: Housing and public safety, youth mental health, community spaces, jobs in high-growth sectors, and civic engagement. NYC Speaks is a public-private partnership led by Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives Sheena Wright, working alongside various philanthropic partners, community leaders, and civic institutions to inform the priorities and policies of the Adams administration.

“New Yorkers deserve a seat at the table to share their vision for our city’s future. It is why I engage and speak with community groups in all five boroughs every day, making sure I hear their concerns and dreams,” said **Mayor Adams**. “Having that input from New Yorkers is helping us ‘Get Stuff Done’ the right way. But I am only just one person and that’s why I am grateful to NYC Speaks for conducting the largest public policy survey in our city’s history, asking over 62,000 New Yorkers what their priorities are. Those responses led to our administration creating an action plan that covers five key issues crucial to New Yorkers’ success and well-being. When working together, our community can address the issues that affect their lives the most.”

“Today’s announcement is the result of this administration’s continued commitment to put people first,” said **Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives Sheena Wright**. “The NYC Speaks Action Plan comes directly from the voices of New Yorkers — hundreds of community conversations, the largest policy survey in our city’s history, and working directly with leaders in the Adams administration. Together, as one united city, we are prepared to accomplish the bold, shared vision laid out in the Action Plan’s North Stars.”

“NYC Speaks is only scratching the surface of what a people-driven transformation of city government can look like,” said **NYC Speaks Co-Executive Director Jose Serrano-McClain, partner, HR&A Advisors**. “NYC Speaks is proving that when civic engagement is done with rigor it can bring together City Hall, our leading institutions, and communities across the city to align on the kind of bold actions that address the big challenges we are facing as a city. We look forward to the administration seeing through the commitments laid in the NYC Speaks Action Plan, to keeping New Yorkers engaged, and to city government continuing to innovate in centering the voice of the people in major plans.”

“NYC Speaks has successfully incorporated thousands of unique New Yorkers' voices to guide thoughtful plans to improve our city,” said **NYC Speaks Co-Executive Director Dr. Shango Blake**. “The effort — made possible by hundreds of devoted community advocates, canvassers, institutions, policymakers, and many more — has been fruitful, revealing, and inspiring. We’re thrilled to continue our partnership with the city and launch NYC Speaks 2.0 next year, where we hope even more New Yorkers will participate in this inclusive and innovative partnership between government and constituents.”

The Action Plan is the result of a yearlong public-private partnership. Over 80 members of the Civic Policy Councils — representing a diverse cross-section of New Yorkers — collaborated on the research and outreach strategies for the initiative. Policy council members led the development of the NYC Speaks survey questions, which captured more than 62,000 responses, totaling 3 million data points, from New Yorkers across every residential ZIP code. These efforts included outreach support from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the New York City Department of Education (DOE), the New York City Department of Veterans Affairs, the New York City Department of Probation, the New York City Mayor’s Public Engagement Unit, the New York Public Library, the Queens Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Civic Engagement Commission. Notably, the NYC Youth Speaks Survey was formulated and shared with the support of the DOE to young people across New York City with more than 18,400 youth participating.

Following the results of the quantitative data, NYC Speaks launched community conversations to bring the survey data back to communities to interpret and help develop tangible actions. A total of 50 community-based organizations received microgrants to bring conversations to their communities, and 30 young people also joined the initiative as youth ambassadors and led conversations in their community. In total, NYC Speaks facilitated 220+ community conversations that convened in eight languages with 4,800 residents. The events were hosted online and in-person in all five boroughs, and served populations that have been historically marginalized, such as Black and Brown residents, seniors, those impacted by the criminal justice system, people living with disabilities, women, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Action Plan contains five key “North Stars” — foundational policy goals for New York City along with initial commitments from city government. The North Stars reflect the collective vision of New Yorkers and of the Adams administration to create a fairer, more equitable city for all.

- **North Star #1:** Formerly incarcerated New Yorkers will have the support and resources they need to succeed when they return home.

- **North Star #2:** New York City public school students have access to culturally competent mental health resources.
- **North Star #3:** Historically disinvested neighborhoods will be prioritized for capital investments in community and recreation spaces that support social, economic, and climate resilience.
- **North Star #4:** Young New Yorkers and residents in environmental justice communities will have access to green career pathways created by city-led decarbonization and resilience efforts.
- **North Star #5:** New York City's government will be transformed into a national model of collaborative, inclusive, and accountable governance that strengthens democracy, expands civic engagement, and enhances civic trust.

Within the Adams administration, work is already underway to advance the objectives of the North Stars. Ranging from [investing in initiatives](#) that create pathways to the green economy to transforming New York City into a '[City of Yes](#)' that will build affordable housing for communities most in need, the North Stars align with Mayor Adams's current policy agenda.

"The New York Speaks Action Plan is truly the embodiment of 'of the people, for the people, and by the people,'" said **Deputy Mayor for Operations Meera Joshi**. "New Yorkers have distinct opinions, views, wants, and, yes, demands from their municipal government and Mayor Adams, Deputy Mayor Wright, and the entire administration have been listening and are committed to acting on these priorities."

"NYC Speaks represents an innovative approach to broad-based community engagement, and I appreciate the tens of thousands of New Yorkers who have shared their feedback for the future of the city," said **Deputy Mayor for Economic and Workforce Development Maria Torres-Springer**. "This engagement has reconfirmed that the central challenges facing New York are well understood by its residents, including the availability of housing and opportunities for economic advancement. I look forward to working with my colleagues in government to be responsive to this clear feedback."

"Thousands of New Yorkers from all across the city shared their voices through NYC Speaks and we listened," said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**. "With this action plan, we are answering that call. Ultimately, we strive to deliver services and implement policies for our fellow New Yorkers guided by their voice. Thank you to the teams across the government that have been part of this initiative and everyone who made their voice heard by completing our surveys. Together, we can create a better New York."

"People often know exactly what they want and need in order for their community to prosper," said **Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Philip Banks III**. "Our job in government is to listen to those ideas, learn, and build that feedback into our plans for the future. This initiative does just that."

"The NYC Speaks survey was an incredible effort to bring the needs of New Yorkers to the heart of this administration," said **Chief Housing Officer Jessica Katz**. "From the concerns around

housing needs and how cross cutting issues are for New Yorkers, the NYC Speaks Action Plan reflects the day-to-day reality of our neighbors and gives a clear path forward to build a stronger, more equitable, and fairer city for all."

"The cornerstone of any great public school is an engaged community that feels a responsibility to the young people of that school," said **DOE Chancellor David C. Banks**. "It is an honor to be a part of the long-term strides that this administration is taking to improve the lives of all New Yorkers, and we are proud of the opportunity this plan creates for our youngest citizens. We are listening, we are learning, and we are excited to facilitate positive change."

"When I spoke upon my experience of being the only black female in educational spaces, NYC Speaks listened," said, **Omosefe Noruwa, youth ambassador, NYC Speaks**. "This initiative provided me with a platform to share my ideas on racial inequality in education and helped me develop my youth mentorship program, PME Success Network. I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to be a part of this initiative and I hope that it results in more young people of color feeling as though they can do it too."

"Immigrant communities tend to lack information on city government and resources," said **Erum Hanif, chief executive officer, APNA Brooklyn Community Center**. "Many members of immigrant communities are limited English Proficient, are not technologically savvy and don't know where or how to find the information and resources about city programs and services. APNA Brooklyn Community Center was able to join efforts with NYC Speaks and host multiple conversations with several non-English speakers in Urdu. It provided them an opportunity to learn about city services and get civically more engaged. The conversations were highly important for the participants, their families, and the immigrant community at large, and I continue to receive requests to host more."

"NYC Speaks was an innovative project that actively sought to listen to everyday New Yorkers in their own neighborhoods," said **Juan Rosa, national director of civic engagement, NALEO Educational Fund**. "At NALEO Educational Fund, we are dedicated to ensuring that Latino voices are heard in all civic processes, and NYC Speaks gave us a great opportunity to elevate the voices of Latino community members regarding the future of the city of New York. As a non-profit organization, it was encouraging to see how the city partnered with CBOs on equal footing to implement the various phases of NYC Speaks."

"NYC Speaks provided a platform for stakeholders with disabilities to address their concerns directly," said **Sharon McLennon-Wier, executive director, Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York**. "Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York serves New Yorkers with disabilities in each of the five boroughs and are always looking for better methods to advocate for our community. This is the first time in years that I have seen that opportunity given to the public, especially in such an intricate manner."

"An initiative such as NYC Speaks that opens the dialogue to overlooked and underrepresented people is a superpower," said **Terra Renee, founder and CEO, African Women in Cinema**. "We are always looking for helpful ways to reach out to the community. We had a great turn out to the conversations that we hosted. Our community voices will be heard as it relates to some of the policies in the city we live in. People were so appreciative that policy makers took the time out to hear their concerns. I hope to see this become a staple."

“There’s so much value in what NYC Speaks was able to accomplish,” said **Patricia Hernandez, director of metro regions, Corporation for Supportive Housing**. “NYC Speaks allowed for a structured space and enough time to really go through an agenda. We were able to focus on particular topics and create action plans while bringing together different sectors to get the whole picture. This initiative was a great model of getting key stakeholders in one room to accomplish a task. We created short term, medium term, and long-term goals.”

About NYC Speaks

Launched in December 2021, NYC Speaks is a citywide public engagement and people-driven government transformation initiative that engages tens of thousands of New Yorkers to inform the priorities and policies of the Adams administration. The effort—a public-private partnership between the administration and a growing network of community leaders and civic institutions—is hosted by Goodnation Philanthropy Advisors, managed by HR&A Advisors in partnership with Deputy Mayor Wright, and backed by some of New York’s largest and most innovative philanthropic organizations, including Ford Foundation, Robin Hood, Open Society Foundations, Trinity Church Wall Street, New York Women’s Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, New York Community Trust, Galaxy Gives, CityBridge, and FWD.us Education Fund. The initiative will pursue policies and programs that emerged from the process, advanced through co-investment with both government and philanthropic support. For more information about NYC Speaks and to participate in upcoming events visit nycspeaks.org.

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