Resolution calling upon the Governor and Mayor to approve a fourth “New York/New York Agreement” to create permanent supportive housing.

By Council Members Levin, Chin, Eugene, Mendez, Palma, Torres, Rosenthal, Rodriguez, Reynoso, Lander, Menchaca and Johnson

Whereas, On November 10, 2014, the New York City Department of Homeless Services, identified over 57,000 New Yorkers in its homeless shelters, including 24,946 children and 12,048 families; and

Whereas, The Coalition for the Homeless claims that another 5,000 homeless New Yorkers sleep in other public or private shelters that house domestic violence survivors, people living with HIV and AIDS, runaway youth and other homeless individuals; and

Whereas, According to the Coalition for the Homeless, there are also thousands of homeless people sleeping on the street, parks, or other public locations; and
Whereas, Cities and states have invested in supportive housing to reduce the homeless population; and

Whereas, Supportive housing is a blend of affordable housing and support services to help individuals and families who have a chronic history of being homeless; and

Whereas, This model provides tenants with housing stability while on-site support services helps individuals and families overcome obstacles to independent living such as psychosocial, intellectual, or physical health problems; and

Whereas, Advocates from the “Campaign 4 NY/NY” have estimated that two-thirds of the street homeless, 30 to 40 percent of homeless sheltered adults without children, and 10 to 15 percent of homeless families with children need permanent supportive housing; and

Whereas, Under the “New York/New York” (NY/NY) housing agreements, New York City and New York State have committed to build supportive housing units; and

Whereas, The NY/NY agreements have resulted in the creation of over 14,000 new supportive housing units since 1990; and

Whereas, According to the New York City Department of Health (DOH), all of the 9,000 supportive housing units planned under the current agreement, New York/New York III (NY/NY III), will be completed by 2016; and

Whereas, There is not enough supportive housing to house the eligible homeless population; and

Whereas, According to a New York Observer article titled “Advocates Gather to Urge De Blasio, Cuomo Toward New Supportive Housing Agreement,” over 20,000 households qualify for supportive housing each year but only one supporting housing unit is available for every six eligible applicants; and

Whereas, The shortage of supportive housing will worsen when the NY/NY III agreement ends; and

Whereas, Advocates from the “Campaign 4 NY/NY” are requesting that the City and State create and fully fund 30,000 units of supportive housing over the next ten years; and

compared the costs of government subsidized healthcare, social services and jail utilization of eligible applicants placed in NY/NY III supportive housing to those of NY/NY III applicants not placed over the period of 2007 to 2009 and found that the NY/NY III tenants spent fewer days in such institutions and cost the City and State $10,100 less on average; and

Whereas, Supportive housing has been demonstrated to be a humane and economical way to house formerly homeless people and other populations; and

Whereas, A new NY/NY agreement can help reduce the current homeless shelter population, and would allow formerly homeless New Yorkers to live with as much independence as possible; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the Governor and Mayor to approve a fourth “New York/New York Agreement” to create permanent supportive housing.