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CAMPAIGN 4 NY/NY HOUSING AND ALLIES APPLAUD DE BLASIO ADMINISTRATION 15,000 UNIT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PLAN

“It would be impossible to overstate the significance of the mayor's commitment to fund 15k units of supportive housing For New Yorkers suffering with mental illness and other disabilities, on the cusp of facing another brutal winter on our city's streets, Bill de Blasio has just thrown them a lifeline of hope. We now need the State to step up and be a full partner with the City and match this historic commitment,” said **Mary Brosnahan, President and CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless.**

“We applaud the mayor's extraordinary commitment to – and investment in – supportive housing, the solution to homelessness among our most vulnerable,” said **Laura D. Mascuch, Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York.** “In the past, Governors and Mayors have stood shoulder to shoulder in their commitment to supportive housing; now we look to Governor Cuomo to come to the table as well. Only in working together can we meet the true need for 30,000 homes in New York City for our neediest citizens.”

“This announcement demonstrates Mayor de Blasio’s commitment to addressing homelessness and the need for affordable housing and services in New York City,” said **Kristin Miller, Corporation for Supportive Housing Director in New York.** “Supportive housing works and this plan will go a long way toward helping people experiencing homelessness find a stable home and the supportive services they need to stay housed and healthy.”

“Thank you, Mayor de Blasio, for being the leader we need and committing to fund 15,000 units of supportive housing. This is an important step to ending chronic homelessness. These units aren't simply numbers on a page; they represent 15,000 homes for youth aging out of foster care, veterans who bravely protected our country, and individuals with disabilities who seek the dignity to live independently,” said **Judi Kende, Vice President and New York Market Leader, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.** “For two very long years, we have fought relentlessly on this campaign to provide housing for the most vulnerable New Yorkers, and now we need Governor Cuomo to commit funding for another 15,000 supportive housing units to help meet the enormous need.”

“This is one of the largest initiatives for supportive housing in the country. I applaud the Mayor for continuing his efforts to keep his campaign promise to develop affordable housing,” said **Reverend AR Bernard, Senior Pastor and CEO at Christian Cultural Center.**

“Nothing will do more to address the ‘Tale of Two Cities’ than to build housing for those most in need. Today’s announcement of 15,000 units to be built for homeless New Yorkers, amidst this unprecedented crisis, is exactly the kind of bold progressive leadership that led NYC to elect Mayor de Blasio and we pray that Governor Cuomo will feel the holiday spirit and show us the same kind of leadership,” said **Jennifer Flynn, VOCAL Executive Director.**

“This is a huge step forward to ending mass homelessness and absolutely necessary for New York’s fight against AIDS,” said **Wayne Starks, a VOCAL New York board member** from Brooklyn and resident of St. Nick's Alliance. “Frankly, I would be dead today if I had not been able to access supportive housing. I was homeless and living with HIV, my drug use was out of control, and my health was falling apart fast. Supportive housing was the most important thing that allowed me to become stable, safe, and healthy.”

"This is a huge step forward for vulnerable families across the city. Creating permanent housing for families in need is the best solution to stabilize neighborhoods and communities, while offering the supports to get people back on their feet. The state needs to now step up and do its part to fully implement a program that will change the lives of thousands of homeless families," said **Jonathan Westin, Executive Director of New York Communities for Change**.

"We applaud Mayor de Blasio and advocates for the homeless community for working together to create a robust plan that will provide the support necessary for New Yorkers to not only access quality housing, but also the needed services to thrive," said **Javier Valdes, co-Executive Director at Make the Road New York**.

“The Mayor’s 15,000 unit supportive housing commitment is unprecedented and Mayor de Blasio should be commended for his bold leadership in addressing this critical issue. He’s taking a proven solution and implementing it at a massive scale,” said **Martin Dunn, longtime developer of supportive housing and President of Dunn Development Corp**.

“Mayor de Blasio's \$3 Billion initiative will make a critical difference in the City's efforts to fight and eradicate homelessness. In addition, we applaud the Mayor for reaching out and working with immigrant communities and local housing development organizations to build new housing units and to implement a comprehensive plan to ensure that no neighborhoods are left behind,” said **Christopher Kui, Executive Director of Asian Americans for Equality**.

"Supportive housing is a time-proven, cost-effective strategy in addressing homeless," said **Brenda Rosen, President & CEO of Breaking Ground**. "Over the past 25 years, Breaking Ground has seen over and over the restorative powers of giving someone a safe, stable, affordable home to call their own, and wrapping them in the support services they need to succeed. We’ve also seen supportive housing help transform entire communities. We applaud Mayor de Blasio for his commitment to 15,000 supportive housing units which will help build and restore the lives of thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers."

“The Mayor's supportive housing plan will reduce homelessness for years to come and help thousands of people to rebuild their lives,” said **Tony Hannigan, Executive Director of Center for Urban Community Services**.

"Mayor de Blasio's unprecedented plan to increase supportive housing in New York City by 15,000 units in 15 years is a tremendous step forward in ensuring that many of our most vulnerable residents and neighbors are provided the housing, services, and stability they both need and deserve,” said **Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO and Executive Director of the**

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. "These units will support and benefit countless children and families for generations to come."

"Mayor de Blasio is showing hands-on leadership here by expanding the city's commitment to creating supportive housing units. The state needs to act as well. Even Senate Republicans are asking the state to follow through. Supportive housing is widely viewed as one of the most effective solutions to homelessness, and both the city and state need to do their fair share if this program is going to be built out to the level that experts say New York City needs," said **Bill Lipton, Working Families Party New York State Director.**

"This is an investment in our city's prosperity. Supportive housing offers an incredible return on investment that will result in savings many times over. I applaud the Mayor's leadership and support his vision for a more equitable city," said **Allison Sesso, Executive Director of Human Services Council of NY.**

"The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies is extremely pleased that the de Blasio administration has committed to create 15,000 units of supportive housing over the next 15 years. Supportive housing is affordable housing that provides on-site services and supports to people with mental illness and chronic substance use disorders. Housing of this kind is a social determinant that helps people stabilize their lives within the community. It is evidence-based—proven to support positive outcomes for its residents, keeping them out of hospitals and homeless shelters. We applaud the administration's commitment to supportive housing and call upon the Governor to commit to a commensurate number of units," said **Phillip A. Saperia, Chief Executive Officer of The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.**

"Stable housing will provide a roadmap from homelessness to recovery, bringing help and hope to thousands of our most vulnerable New Yorkers. We are extremely grateful to the Mayor and First Lady for their bold leadership and this unprecedented level of commitment," said **Harvey Rosenthal, Executive Director of the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services.**

"We are immensely grateful for the Mayor's commitment of 15,000 units of supportive housing which will start us on the path to creating permanent solutions for some of our homeless neighbors. We must stay committed to seeking real and permanent housing opportunities for ALL of our clients who would benefit from supportive housing and ask Governor Cuomo to join us in this mission by committing resources for an additional 15,000 units in order to meet the need for this proven and cost effective solution," said **Christy Parque, Executive Director of Homeless Services United, Inc.**

"Good Shepherd Services applauds Mayor de Blasio's commitment of 15,000 new units of supportive housing, and urges Governor Cuomo to match this commitment. As a transitional and supportive housing provider, we strongly urge that 1,500 of these units be designated for young people experiencing homelessness. This effort is a much needed step toward a solution to help fight the devastating cycle of youth homelessness in New York City," said **Sr. Paulette LoMonaco, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Services.**

“As both an advocate and affordable housing developer, Fifth Avenue Committee is grateful for Mayor deBlasio's announcement and unprecedented commitment to supportive housing. This highly effective model will serve thousands of New Yorkers in need in a humane and cost effective manner,” said **Michelle de la Uz, Executive Director of Fifth Avenue Committee.**

“Our Parents taught us that we always must have room for one more. We continue their legacy by doing all humanly possible to find housing for those who wish to live in dignity in our city,” said **Joseph Potasnik, Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis/Senior Rabbi at Congregation Mt. Sinai, Brooklyn Heights.**

"I commend the Mayor for his commitment of 15,000 units supportive housing over 15 years. This greatly expands the number of New Yorkers that will live in safe clean housing with support services to address their individual needs. That speaks directly to the need for compassion we as faith leaders speak about every day," said **James Osei-Kofi, Associate Pastor at Bethesda Healing Center.**

“We applaud the mayor's announcement to create 15,000 units of supportive housing for this city's most vulnerable population. With this plan, the mayor had shown a holistic approach to deal with this complex yet critical issue for the city. This is the latest in a series of announcement that demonstrate this administration's commitment to tackling the affordable housing crisis in New York City,” said **Peter Ward, President of New York Hotel and Motel Trades Council.**

"The Mayor's supportive housing plan is a huge step towards solving our long-term homelessness crisis. It demonstrates once again that compassionate government can genuinely improve the lives of the city's neediest, and at the same time improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers,” said **Bob Master, Assistant to the Vice President, CWA District One.**

"As patient advocates, we see supportive housing as an absolutely essential underpinning of public health. Mayor de Blasio shows keen and caring judgment with this outstanding plan,” said **Jill Furillo, RN, Executive Director of NYSNA.**

“Congratulations to Mayor de Blasio and the City of New York for finding a way to finance a permanent solution to homelessness and need for thousands of New Yorkers. New York will be a better city—morally as well as materially—when those most afflicted by poverty and illness receive the support they need. As a representative of hundreds of professors of social work, counseling and community health at CUNY, I commend the Mayor on his initiative and am confident that CUNY faculty and staff will be a resource in this project as they are in so many other parts of city life,” said **Barbara Bowen, President of Professional Staff Congress CUNY.**