August 31, 2016

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker of the New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Honorable John J. Flanagan
New York State Senate Majority Leader
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Governor Cuomo, Assemblyman Heastie and Senator Flanagan,

As Faith Leaders from many faith traditions and throughout New York State, we write you to express our appreciation for your support for building supportive housing to help the neediest and most vulnerable homeless men, women, and children in our communities. In January, most of us wrote to encourage you to support and extend this critical effort as part of your budget, and we are grateful you did. The funds committed this spring to build the first 6,000 new units of supportive housing – the first step in your commitment to build 20,000 statewide – will help thousands of families and individuals break the cycle of poverty.

As people of faith, we know you each share our belief that the true values of a society are revealed in the way it treats the neediest and most vulnerable among us. That is why we are writing you today to encourage you to finish the job by signing the Memorandum of Understanding your budget requires before those funds can be spent, and those 6,000 new units of supportive housing can be built.

As members of the clergy and the leaders of faith based communities and service organizations, we are on the front lines of providing support to the 80,000 homeless children, women and men in our communities. From Montauk to Massena, Brooklyn to Buffalo, too many individuals and families with serious social service needs simply cannot find and maintain permanent, affordable housing and get off the streets. Today, the short supply of supportive housing units means just one in six applicants can be placed in a home. With the stroke of a pen, you can begin to change that.

Supportive housing is the best, most humane, and most cost effective way to provide chronically homeless people the support they need. Providing supportive housing to our most vulnerable residents saves government’s money -- $10,100 per year, per tenant here in New York – by reducing hospitalizations, detox and rehab programs, and incarceration.

Governor Cuomo, Assemblyman Heastie and Senator Flanagan, you have shown leadership on this issue in your approval of the funds for these first 6,000 units. Now we are calling on you to do it again. Finish the job. Sign this MOU and allow the first 6,000 of 20,000 units of supportive housing to be built. If you do, you will send a strong message to members of our congregations and the general public that New York State is serious about ending homelessness and providing all of our citizens the opportunity to live full, decent and productive lives. All that stands in the way now is this MOU.

In Faith,
Rev. Peter Cook, Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches, Albany
Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive V.P., NY Board of Rabbis
Rev. Robert Pultz-Morrison, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of New York City
Rev. Michael S. Bos, Senior Minister, West End Collegiate Church, President, Collegiate Church of New York
Casey R. Kemper, President, Collegiate Realty, Collegiate Church of New York
Rev. Skip L’Heureux, Executive Director, Queens Federation of Churches
Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, President, Union Theological Seminary, Manhattan
Rev. Fred Davie, Exec. VP, Union Theological Seminary, Manhattan
Rev. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director, Interfaith Center of New York, NYC
Nicholas Napolitano, Assistant for Social Ministries, USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader, New York Society for Ethical Culture
Rev. John H. Vaughn, Executive Vice President, Auburn Seminary, Manhattan
Rev. Dr. Raymond Rivera, President and Founder, Latino Pastoral Action Center, Bronx
Rev. Joel Gibson, Director of Faith Based Initiatives, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Rev. Kevin Mullen, Minister Provincial, Holy Name Province - Franciscan Friars
Deacon Walter Ayres, Catholic Charities' Commission on Peace and Justice, Albany
Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert, Interfaith Impact of New York State, Albany
Bishop Dr. James Clark, Co-Chair, Faith in New York, Christ Temple of Apostolic Faith, Brooklyn,
Sheikh Moussa Drammeh, Director and Founder, Islamic Cultural Center, Bronx
Rev. Emily McNeill, Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Mary Smith, Communications Coordinator, Church Women United in New York State
Hemant Wadhwani, Hindu American Seva Charities
Laura Jervis, Parish Assoc., Rutgers Presbyterian Church & ED, (Retired) West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc.
Rev. Terry Troia, Director, Project Hospitality, Staten Island
Dr. Diane Steinman, Director, Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform
Marc Greenberg, Executive Director, Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing
Rev. James Addison, Coordinator, Life Experience and Faith Sharing Association, Manhattan
Cassandra Agredo, Executive Director, Xavier Mission, Manhattan
Rev. Moira Ahearne, Interim Pastor, Union Church of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn
Rabbi Daniel Aldar, Brotherhood Synagogue, Manhattan
Rev. Ian Alterman, Spirit Fellowship Ministries, Manhattan
Rabbi Renni S. Altman, Associate Dean, Director, Rabbinic Program, Hebrew Union College-JIR, Manhattan
Rev. Elyse Ambrose, Associate Pastor, Church of the Village, Manhattan
Rev. Laurie Anderson, Interim Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Queens
Rev. Michael Asbury, Pastor (Ret.), United Methodist Church, Loudonville
Dipo Ashiru, Elder, Trinity Grace Church, Manhattan
Olav Athayde, Advocacy Representative, Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, NYC
Rev. Deacon Anne Auchincloss, Episcopal Diocese of New York
Rev. John Backe, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA, Staten Island
Rev. Erica Baron, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, Kingston
Dennis Barton, Deacon, Middle Collegiate Church, Manhattan
Rev. Alan Bentz-Letts, Retired College and hospice chaplain, Queens
Brother Raj Bhushan, Promoter & Reporter, Oneness of All Movement, Manhattan
Andy Biddy, Elder, Trinity Grace Church, UWS, Manhattan
Rev. David Brettell, Pastor, Glen Morris Presbyterian Church, Queens
Rev. Yolanda Brown, Pastor, CENTER OF DESTINY Christian Fellowship, Manhattan
Terrence Brummell, Brooklyn Fatherhood Partnership, Brooklyn NY
Ashley Byrd, Elder, Trinity Grace Church – Westside, Manhattan
Father Michael J. Callaghan, Executive Director, Nazareth Housing, Pastor, The Oratory Church of St. Boniface, Brooklyn
Rev. Seamus Campbell, Ecclesia Ministries of New York Madison Square Park Congregation
Rev. Dr. James Campbell, Pastor, Broadway United Church of Christ, Manhattan
Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena Zayas, Park Avenue Christian Church (DoC)/UCC, Manhattan
Rabbi Ayelet Cohen, Jewish Community Center, Manhattan
Rev. Doug Cunningham, Lead Pastor, New Day United Methodist Church, Bronx
Rev. Chase Danford, Assistant Rector, Grace Church in New York, Manhattan
Rev. Adrian Dannhauser, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Manhattan
Sister Carol De Angelo, Director of Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, Sisters of Charity of New York
Daniel DeBrucker, Ruling Elder, Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Syracuse
Reverend Beverly Dempsey, Pastor and Executive Director, Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, Manhattan
Reverend Amandus Derr, Senior Pastor, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Manhattan
Grace R. Diaz, Pastoral Associate, Our Lady of the Americas Shrine Church, Albany
Reverend Alistair Drummond, Pastor, West End Presbyterian Church, Manhattan
Father John P. Duffell, Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Church, Manhattan
Reverend Kate Dunn, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Outreach, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Manhattan
Sister Irene Ellis, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
Reverend Brian Ellis-Gibbs, Pastor, Queens Baptist Church
Susan Enzer, Trustee and Secretary, Sacred Music New York
Reverend Dr. James Fairbanks, Retired Clergy, Saving Justice Newsletter, The Riverside Church
Reverend Paul B. Feuerstein, President/CEO, Barrier Free Living, Manhattan
Rabbi Brian Fink, Jewish Community Center (JCC), Manhattan
Reverend Katharine Flexer, Rector, St Michael’s Episcopal Church, Manhattan
Sister Judith Garson, Society of the Sacred Heart, NYC
Reverend Calvin Gibson, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Queens
Rabbi Megan Goldman, Columbia/Barnard Hillel, Manhattan
Father Anthony Green, St. John of God Parish, Albany
Phillip Grigsby, Executive Director Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM)
Reverend Galen Guengerich, Senior Minister, All Souls Unitarian Church, NYC
Father Mark Hallinan, Pastor, St Mary’s Mount Carmel Church, Staten Island
Frances Hardy, Faith & Community Relations Manager, Habitat for Humanity New York City
Reverend Martin Hauser, Pastor, Grace & St. Paul Lutheran Church, Manhattan
Andrew Hausermann, Director of Organizing, Faith in New York
The Reverend Peter Heltzel, Associate Director, The Micah Institute at New York Theological Seminary
Reverend Stephen Holton, Assistant Rector, Grace Church, Manhattan
Katy Homans, Clerk, Head Coordinator, Friends shelter, Manhattan
Reverend Donald Hoover, Pastor, Tappan Reformed Church
Frances Hunter, Elder, Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Syracuse
Rabbi David Ingber, Romemu, Manhattan
Karen Jackson, Director of Recovery and Community Initiatives, Project Hospitality, Staten Island
Reverend Scott Black Johnson, Senior Pastor, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Manhattan
Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky, Congregation Ansche Chesed, Manhattan
Reverend Jim Ketcham, Executive Director, FOCUS Churches of Albany, Inc.
Sister Honora Kinney, Sisters of Saint Joseph, Albany
Sister Janet Kinney, Executive Director, Providence House Inc., Brooklyn
Leah Kozak, Associate Director, The Micah Institute at New York Theological Seminary
Rabbi Robert Levine, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Manhattan
Reverend Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister, Middle Collegiate Church, NYC
Rabbi Ellen Lippmann, Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives, Brooklyn
Reverend John Long, First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo
Reverend Sally MacNichol, Co-Director, CONNECT - NYC
Reverend Patricia Malcolm, Women Supporting Women, Inc. NYC
Rabbi Marc Margolius, West End Synagogue, Manhattan
Father Joseph Marina, Pastor, Church of St. Francis Xavier, Manhattan
Rabbi José Rolando Matalon, Congregation B’nai Jeshurun, Manhattan
Reverend Martin McGeachy, Pastor, Gilead Church, Queens
Imam Khabir John McGeehan, Masjid Al Farah, Manhattan
Reverend Emily McNeill, Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS
Reverend John McNeill, Senior Pastor, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Ithaca
Reverend Erika Meyer, Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Manhattan
Reverend Paul B. Millholland, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Queens
Father Stephen Mimnaugh, Executive Director, St. Francis Friends of the Poor, Inc., Manhattan
Reverend Brian Moll, Coordinator, New York Collaborative to End Homelessness
Reverend Frank Morales, Pastor, Episcopal Church of All Souls, Manhattan
Rabbi Steven Moskowitz, Congregation L'Dor V'Dor, Oyster Bay
Abdul Qadir, Muhammad, Director of Administration, Masjid AT-Taqwa, Brooklyn
Reverend, Eric Mull, Pastor, Lutheran Church by the Sea, Queens
Reverend Andrew Tobias Nelson, Pastor, Christ Our Emmanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA, Chatham
Reverend Daiken Nelson, Zen Peacemaker Order, Guiding Teacher, Pamsula Zen Center, Manhattan
Reverend Patrick O'Connor, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, Queens
Reverend James Osei Kofi, Associate Pastor, Bethesda Healing Center, Brooklyn
Reverend Emily Otto, Presbyterian New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Springs
Reverend Martha Overall, Rector, St. Ann’s Episcopal Church, Bronx, NY
Rabbi Shuli Passow, Congregation B’Nai Jeshurun, Manhattan
Lauren Phillips, Program Manager, Cathedral Community Cares, Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, Manhattan
Ann Post, Director of Children’s Ministries, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Reverend Jennifer Reddall, Rector, The Church of the Epiphany, Manhattan
Anthony Perez, Social Justice Committee, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Corona, NY
Ayelet Porzecanski, Cantor, West End Synagogue, Manhattan
Susan Razavi, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Nithyananda Sanatana Hindu Dharma
Reverend Thia Reggio, Pastor, Astoria First Presbyterian Church, Queens
Joan Ricketts, Membership, Care and Pastoral Fellowship, The Riverside Church, NYC
Reverend Irving Rivera, Senior Pastor, Reformed Church in America, Bronx
JP Ross, Organizer, Micah Institute at New York Theological Seminary
Joann Sams, Administrator, The Dwelling Place of NY, Manhattan
Rev. Dr. Maria A. Scates, D.D., CEO/Founder, JCTOD Outreach Inc. (dba) Johnson Park Center, Utica
Reverend Jill Schaeffer, Pastor/Professor, Bellerose, NY
Reverend Matt Schaeffer, Pastor, Bethel United Methodist Church, Staten Island
Reverend Donna Schaper, Senior Minister, Judson Memorial Church, Manhattan
Sally Siemoens, Elder, Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Syracuse
Eugena Simpson, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, NYC
Rabbi Felicia Sol, Congregation B’nai Jeshurun, Manhattan
Reverend Bruce Southworth, Senior Pastor, Community Church of New York, Inc., Manhattan
Reverend Scott Stearman, Pastor, Metro Baptist Church, Manhattan
Reverend Rob Stephens, Associate Minister, Middle Collegiate Church, NYC
Rabbi Robert Summers, Netivot Hayyim / Rites of Passage, NYC
Reverend, Charles Straut, Retired clergy, NY Annual Conference United Methodist Church, Brooklyn
Reverend Jared Stahler, Associate Pastor, St. Peter’s Church, Manhattan
Reverend James Sudbrock, Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan
Reverend Edward Sunderland, Executive Director, Crossroads Community Services, Manhattan
Reverend Kenneth J. Thomas, Associate Minister, West End Presbyterian Church, Manhattan
Reverend Margaret O. Thomas, Associate Minister, West End Presbyterian Church, Manhattan
Reverend Phil Tom, Interim Senior Pastor, Eastchester Presbyterian Church, Bronx
Reverend Kitty Ufford-Chase, Co-Director, Stony Point Conference Center, Stony Point
Reverend Rick Ufford-Chase, Co-Director, Stony Point Conference Center, Stony Point
Reverend Shannan Vance-Ocampo, Albany Presbytery, Presbyterian Church USA
Jonathan Walton, Director, InterVarsity’s Christian Fellowship NYC Urban Project
Reverend J. Donald Waring, Rector, Grace Church in New York
Musa Watanabe, Peer Specialist, Rainbow Heights Club, Brooklyn
Reverend William C. Webb, Episcopal Diocese Western NY, Albany
Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, Brooklyn
Michael Weis Cantor, Brotherhood Synagogue, Manhattan
Reverend Jeff Wells, Pastor, The United Methodist Church of the Village, Manhattan
Reverend Anette Westmark, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Newtown, Queens
Reverend Suzanne Wiedel-Pace, Coordinator, Living Well, Restorative Communities Collaborative
Larissa Wohl, Social Action Coordinator, Congregation B’Nai Jeshurun, Manhattan
Reverend Dustin Wright, Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Schenectady
Bro. Anthony Zuba, Parochial Staff, Parish of Holy Cross-St. John the Baptist, NYC

Institutional Affiliations listed for Identification Purposes only

For further information about Faith Leaders 4 NY/NY Housing
Contact Marc Greenberg, Executive Director, Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, at Marc@iahh.org