

# One New York, Rising Together



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In so many ways, New York has become a Tale of Two Cities.

Nearly 400,000 millionaires call New York home, while nearly half of our neighbors live at or near the poverty line. Our middle class isn't just shrinking; it's in danger of vanishing altogether.

Addressing the crisis of income inequality isn't a small task. But if we are to thrive as a city, it must be at the very center of our vision for the next four years.

During my time in public office, I've taken on unscrupulous landlords; protected children who were victims of neglect and abuse; battled the corrupting influence of corporate money in politics; fought to repair broken policing policies; and championed working family issues like paid sick leave and living wage laws.

As mayor, I'll spend every waking moment fighting to bring opportunity to every New Yorker — with a plan to create jobs in all five boroughs; a dramatic expansion of affordable housing and accessible health care; increasing taxes on the wealthy to fund early childhood and after-school programs; and building police-community relations that keep everyone safer.

That's not simply a plan for tackling the inequality crisis. It's my solemn commitment to every resident of the city we all love so much.

In these pages, you will also read about my ideas for a sustainable environment, better transit, the rights of new Americans, reforming our government so it is as great as our city, protecting vulnerable populations and continuing the fight for full equality for all New Yorkers.

New Yorkers have a choice in front of us. I ask you to help me build one New York, where we all rise together.

Sincerely,

*Bill de Blasio*

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# JOBS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS, GROWTH FOR ALL NEIGHBORHOODS

A vibrant middle class made New York City a beacon of opportunity to so many generations. But today's reality is different. New York's middle class isn't just shrinking. It's in real danger of disappearing altogether. A recent study by the Partnership for New York City found that high- and low-wage jobs are growing, but the city continues to lose middle-wage jobs and middle-class households.

New York City spends too many dollars in one-off deals for large, well-connected corporations, while too many industry sectors and small businesses are neglected — especially those in outer-borough neighborhoods. We have had a high-tech job boom in recent years, but few of those jobs have gone to graduates of our public schools. A recent report found that as many as a third of jobs in STEM-related fields don't require a bachelor's degree, but New York lags behind other regions in the proportion of jobs held by STEM workers without a bachelor's degree<sup>1</sup> — which correlates strongly with the rising inequality we have seen in our city. Similarly, we have failed to train people to meet rising health care demand, so New York City's medical institutions have to recruit abroad to fill 16,000 nursing positions with overseas-trained nurses, rather than hiring from the ranks of our own unemployed.

The result is that, using the broadest definition of unemployment, 15.8 percent of New Yorkers are estimated to be without a job or involuntarily working part time<sup>2</sup>, while the city's poverty rate is now 22 percent — higher than when Mayor Bloomberg came into office. In the three years after the economic crisis of 2008, we saw median income decline 6 percent.<sup>3</sup>

A New York City that continues the economic and educational policies of the last decade cannot — and will not — be a city of neighborhoods where middle-class families can live, work, and raise their children. Without a dramatic change of direction — an economic policy that combats inequality and rebuilds our middle class — New York will become little more than a playground for the rich, where millions upon millions of New Yorkers struggle each and every day to keep their heads above water.

## The De Blasio Record on Jobs for New Yorkers

As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio understands that it is essential to stand with small businesses — including immigrant businesses — and to fight for decent pay and working conditions, especially for low-wage workers.

**Helping Small Businesses.** As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio issued two reports documenting, for the first time, the incredible burden on small businesses from the rapid rise in fines. After suing the city to obtain never-before-seen data, de Blasio proved what many business owners have witnessed for years: an unannounced revenue-driven enforcement campaign begun in 2010 has led to a dramatic increase in inspections and nuisance fines on small businesses, particularly in the outer boroughs. Bill de Blasio proposed a five-point plan for rational enforcement, based on public safety — not the drive to boost city revenue at the expense of small businesses.

**Supporting Immigrant Businesses.** New York's immigrant communities are a continuing source of entrepreneurial activity and can play a key role in creating new jobs. But Bill de Blasio found that the city is not providing sufficient assistance to these groups. A landmark survey by the Fund for Public Advocacy found that 92 percent of immigrant businesses reported receiving no services to start, sustain or grow their businesses — with 51 percent unaware of the services available to them. Bill de Blasio proposed a series of programs for the city to improve its support for immigrant entrepreneurs, including greater outreach and technical assistance.

**Promoting Job-Related Education in Public Schools.**

The city's Career and Technical Education (CTE) high schools should be preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow, but a study by the Public Advocate found that schools leave too many students ill-prepared to enter college or the workforce and identified a mismatch between the most numerous CTE programs and growing industries that



will provide high-skill, high-wage jobs in the future. Bill de Blasio put forward a six-point plan to align programs with the state's fastest-growing career fields and improve the readiness of New York City's 140,000 CTE students.

**Strengthening Work Standards.** Bill de Blasio was a leader in the fight to pass legislation to give New Yorkers paid sick days and a living wage. While both bills were watered down in the City Council as a result of special interest pressure, he is continuing to press for strong laws to protect more New Yorkers.

**Targeting Pension Fund Investments Locally.** Bill de Blasio introduced a resolution to increase responsible investments of the city's pension funds into local job-creating opportunities like affordable housing and infrastructure.



## Jobs for All New Yorkers and Growth for All Neighborhoods

New York City needs an economic development policy that balances investments in the knowledge economy — maintaining our leadership as a magnet for global talent — with support for entrepreneurs in new and neglected industries of the five boroughs, real investments in creating career paths for city residents, a focus on raising wages for all workers in the city, an expansion of green jobs, and investments in technology infrastructure across the city. Bill de Blasio is committed to an economic development path that focuses on rebuilding the middle-class job base.



**Replace Corporate Tax Giveaways With a New Economic Development Focus.** New York City currently disperses around \$4 billion a year on economic development, including \$3 billion on tax expenditures that too often go to single large companies. Yet many of these projects would have happened even in the absence of the tax and subsidy giveaways.

Bill de Blasio is proposing broad reform of all tax breaks — and elimination of programs with notoriously weak payoffs like the Industrial and Commercial Abatement Program (ICAP) — that will save \$250 million per year. De Blasio will also create a Unified Development Budget to ensure any subsidies create jobs that offer a living wage with benefits and that development is spread throughout the city.

The money saved will instead be invested in a much broader economic development agenda that invests in the skills of the city workforce and neglected industry sectors throughout the five boroughs.

**Create a World-Class Education, Training and Job Placement System for Existing Workers.** In place of the balkanized hodge-podge of existing programs in the city, Bill de Blasio will connect our public education system, our workforce training systems, and our economic development programs to create a far more cohesive system that educates and trains people for today's jobs and the jobs of the future.

**Restore CUNY as the Central Gateway to a Quality Education and a Good Job.** If we want the jobs of the future to go to the children of the present, they deserve an education that will not only give them necessary skills but connect them to jobs. We have seen CUNY's budget slashed by a third in the last two decades.<sup>4</sup> Bill de Blasio will fight in Albany to reverse state budget cuts and, as a first step, commit a large portion of funds freed up from eliminating wasteful tax breaks and subsidies to increase New York City funding of CUNY by 50 percent. This will start to make CUNY affordable again and help expand critical programs, including those with a greater focus on "middle skill" Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) training.<sup>5</sup>

**Expand CTE Schools to Match Growing Job Opportunities.** Similarly, Bill de Blasio will expand the network of Career and Technical Education (CTE) high schools and ensure they provide skills in line with projected job growth in the city. The city will seek business commitments to hire CUNY and CTE graduates, while schools will be required to clearly track their success in placing each graduate in a relevant job. Every high school should be connected to a relevant college, apprenticeship program, business or industry to give every student a road to success, while all workers — especially the unemployed — should have access to comprehensive training, apprenticeship and job training programs.

**Ensure Less-Skilled Workers Have Access to Comprehensive Training, Apprenticeship and Job Placement Programs.** Bill de Blasio will bring local business, education, community, labor and agency leaders together to create an integrated local workforce development and job placement system. We should support and expand successful programs, like Per Scholas and Brooklyn Networks, that train and place workers in entry-level technology jobs. It is also time the city ensured the billions it spends every year on city contracts, particularly construction contracts, promote workforce development and job placement.

**Create Comprehensive Career Pathways in the Health Sector.** Bill de Blasio is committed to ensuring that our own trained workers are filling nursing job openings without the need to go overseas, and he will work to create comprehensive career paths in the health sector. Given the importance and demand for new employees in the health sector, de Blasio will ensure that the city recruits and trains New Yorkers for these jobs and creates opportunities for current health workers to upgrade their skills and take higher-paying jobs.

**Help Manufacturing Thrive in New York City.** Bill de Blasio believes manufacturing 2.0 can be a critical part of the city economy and will build on existing programs to preserve the physical integrity of Industrial Business Zones, stop illegal conversions of industrial areas, and support better infrastructure and workforce development planning. He will replicate the success of the Brooklyn Navy Yard in other industrial areas owned and managed by the city.

**Use Sectoral Strategies to Diversify NYC's Economic Base and Bring Jobs to Neighborhoods in All Five Boroughs.** Beyond fashion, high-profile technology, and a few other sectors that have received attention in the last decades, Bill de Blasio will strengthen neglected industry sectors in every neighborhood in the city. He will bring together stakeholders across industry clusters and across neighborhoods to assess where supply chains go, what financing is needed, how to assist in finding and training employees, and other guidance to help each industry become a high-productivity, high-wage part of the city economy.



**Create Economic Development Hubs in Every Neighborhood.** The city will establish economic development hubs in every neighborhood to bring local stakeholders together — from entrepreneurs to educators and community organizations — to map the economic assets, industries, needs, and human resources in each neighborhood and economic sector. Using this map of the city economy mapped neighborhood-by-neighborhood, Bill de Blasio will ensure that economic development staff working and living in those neighborhoods deliver the economic and technical support that each neighborhood and each economic sector needs to grow and develop to its full capacity.

**Establish New Revolving Loan and Equity Investment Funds to Support Neighborhood Entrepreneurs and Industry Sectors Throughout the City.** To fulfill the role abandoned by most banks — providing credit for neighborhood businesses — Bill de Blasio will establish new revolving loan funds targeting low-income neighborhoods that support growing industry sectors. By intimately knowing the local economy, economic development hubs will function as “loan officers” to identify and promote the entrepreneurs with the savvy and market opportunity to grow, while building partnerships with private lenders to co-invest. A new NYC Innovation Equity Fund, using a small portion of city pension funds, will target strategic equity investments throughout the five boroughs. Economic development staff will focus on support for complementary firms in sectors to strengthen local supply chains and increase the overall vitality of neighborhood and citywide industry clusters.

**Establish a Job Creation Coordinator to Oversee All Economic Development and Workforce Training in the City.** A Job Creation Coordinator, answerable to the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, will have oversight over all neighborhood economic development hubs, citywide industry cluster initiatives, technical assistance, economic development funds, and workforce development initiatives to ensure that training and job creation are better coordinated.

**Support Small Businesses as the Key to Growth.** Small businesses drive neighborhood economies across the city. They keep three times the percentage of profits in local communities compared to larger firms — and are far more likely to do business locally as well. Bill de Blasio is committed to policies that support those small businesses.

**Replace the Current Fine Assault on Small Businesses With Technical Assistance to Ensure Compliance.**

Economic development hubs will help businesses navigate regulatory rules, comply with wage and labor laws, and avoid consumer and health violations. Overzealous enforcement will be replaced with tiered classifications of small business violations to distinguish low-risk violations and create easier ways for businesses to fix problems or contest violations online, by mail, or by phone.

**Promote Entrepreneurship Training at Economic Development Hubs.** The city will take many of the business services and entrepreneur classes out to neighborhoods to reach small business entrepreneurs, who often have never heard of these resources. Just as big businesses are able to negotiate lower prices from their suppliers, economic development hubs will work with neighborhood Business Improvement Districts, and through clusters of small businesses in the same industry, to use group purchasing to negotiate lower prices for telecommunications or other shared services.

**Give Local Businesses a Real Shot at City Contracts.** Bill de Blasio will also redesign the bidding process for government contracts, and the billions of dollars the city spends every year buying goods and services, to recruit bids from local businesses and give them a “second chance” to match winning bids by non-local competitors. And the program to include Minority and Women’s owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) must be reformed and expanded to cover more contracts.





**Raise Wages as a Bottom-Up Driver of Economic Development in Low-Income Neighborhoods.** When wages rise, workers spend more in their neighborhoods, and local businesses can then employ more people. Bill de Blasio is committed to using a broad range of policies to help raise wage standards so everyone is able to live and support a family in relative comfort and security.

**Use Public Contracts and Subsidies to Raise Wages.** The living wage law should be pegged to increases in the cost of living and cover any large for-profit company receiving \$1 million in economic subsidies. Any businesses receiving city subsidies should provide clear plans on providing health care for all their workers. Bill de Blasio will create a “responsible contractor policy” requiring all contractors and economic subsidy recipients to disclose and explain past and pending violations of labor, employment, environmental and workplace safety violations, and bar repeat offenders from receiving public money.

**Advocate for Local Control of Minimum Wage Rates.** Bill de Blasio will advocate for Albany to give New York City the ability to set the minimum wage rate at a level appropriate to the city’s high cost of living and worker productivity, rather than having the same rate as that of lower-cost upstate counties.

**Expand Coverage of Paid Sick Days.** Building on the recent paid sick days victory, Bill de Blasio will close the exemptions in the recently passed law to ensure that fewer workers are forced to choose between losing needed income or taking care of themselves or a sick child.

**Help Workers Enforce Their Wage and Labor Rights.** To guarantee that wage laws are enforced, Bill de Blasio will create a dedicated legal services fund to support low-income workers challenging wage theft and other workplace violations.

**An Affordable Housing Policy That Helps Sustain Construction and Associated Jobs in the City.** Bill de Blasio has committed to building or preserving nearly 200,000 units of affordable housing in the city over the next decade. The construction and associated tasks involved in executing this plan will create an additional source of new jobs, especially for those without a college education. Based on job creation estimates from studies of New York’s housing construction,<sup>6</sup> this housing plan could create close to half a million job-years of employment over the life of the plan, in construction, design, and support services, as well as induced employment from the wages spent by those hired for those construction-related jobs. Maintenance and related services for the new buildings and local jobs induced by spending by those new residents will be another source of permanent jobs in the city.

**Invest in New York’s Technology Infrastructure.** In today’s economy, Internet access is not a luxury — it’s an essential commodity that New Yorkers depend on to make a living. Broadband access in New York City is among the most expensive in the industrialized world, and only about half of New York households had access to the highest-speed fiber broadband services as of December 2012.<sup>7</sup> Bill de Blasio will ensure that affordable, high-speed fiber Internet reaches all New York City households within five years. The Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) and the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) need to introduce new franchise agreements to wire more city infrastructure and create greater oversight and accountability in current telecommunications agreements. All options must be on the table to expedite this process, including exploring the creation of a municipal-owned fiber network in parts of the city where private firms may not have the capacity or interest. Bill de Blasio will work with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and local Chambers of Commerce to create public Wi-Fi hot zones around economic development hubs across the city.



## PREPARING EVERY STUDENT FOR SUCCESS IN COLLEGE AND CAREER

Our education system is at a crossroads. With a stubbornly persistent achievement gap and low college readiness rates, we must rapidly work to improve our schools. Currently, only 23 percent of New York City high school students are prepared for college or a career. The percentage of black and Latino students prepared for college and career is abysmal, at only 13 percent.<sup>8</sup>

For the growth and stability of our economy, New York City must have a strong public education system, in which every student has a real chance to reach his or her individual potential and graduate high school prepared for success in college and career.

## The De Blasio Record on Education

As a public school parent, former school board member, former City Council member, and Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio has fought for every child in New York City to get what his own daughter and son received — an education from a New York City public high school that prepares students for success upon graduation. Bill de Blasio's administration will promote equity and social and economic justice by striving to establish *high-quality schools in every neighborhood*.

**Creating Truly Universal Pre-Kindergarten and After-School Programs for ALL Middle School Students.** In front of some of New York's wealthiest residents, Bill de Blasio called for an increase in taxes for New Yorkers earning \$500,000 or more to dramatically expand after-school programs for all middle schools students, and to create truly universal pre-K programs.

**Expanding and Improving Career and Technical Education.** While the Bloomberg Administration has opened up several new CTE schools, they have ignored many of the older CTE schools and have not focused enough on developing schools that focus on high-growth, high-wage and high-skill jobs. Bill de Blasio called for reforms that include dramatically expanding the number of schools in high-growth fields, as well as ensuring that all poor-performing CTE schools are matched with successful CTE schools in their field.

**Increasing Parental Engagement and Communication in the Co-Location Process.** As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio demanded significant reforms in the way the Department of Education implements co-locations. These changes include requiring more information on the way co-locations will impact programs for students with disabilities in the building, establishing additional venues for parents to relay their concerns, and a process in which the DOE responds to parents' concerns.

**Fighting Unfair Closures By Standing Up For Struggling Schools.** As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio successfully fought unfair school closures, including the closing of P.S. 114 in Canarsie, Wadleigh in Harlem, and Maxwell High School in East New York. Struggling schools require specific plans to address their needs, which is exactly what Bill de Blasio did for P.S. 114 — and it's what he will do for every struggling school.



**Providing a Voice for Students with Disabilities.** There are 183,000 — or 17 percent — of students with disabilities in New York City public schools.<sup>9</sup> As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio has provided parents of children with disabilities a voice in the DOE. In 2010, he initiated a multi-year evaluation of the DOE’s Special Education Reform, and he has called for increased professional development for principals and teachers to better meet the needs of students with disabilities. In 2011, Bill de Blasio launched a survey for parents of students with disabilities to learn their concerns about their child’s education and declared, alongside advocates, April as “Students with Disabilities Month.” In 2011, Bill de Blasio also called on the DOE to reform the kindergarten admission process for students with disabilities.



**Stopping Bullying in Schools.** In 2012, Bill de Blasio hosted an anti-bullying forum with educators and advocates, calling for reforms on the ways schools address bullying issues. These ideas include requiring the DOE to hold yearly workshops on bullying prevention, instituting new disclosure requirements on bullying prevention trainings at the school level, and examining data on bullying to help monitor schools’ anti-bullying strategies.



**Addressing Behavioral Issues.** Many schools have inadequate support to address students with behavioral issues. As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio filed a lawsuit against the city in State Supreme Court, demanding data on students who were sent to the emergency room because of behavioral problems at school instead of getting the help they needed in a school setting. De Blasio also called for an expansion of the Community Schools model to ensure that all children receive adequate mental health services in schools.



## The De Blasio Vision for Quality Schools in Every Neighborhood

Bill de Blasio knows the Tale of Two Cities in our schools must come to an end. New York City will not thrive if only some of our schools meet the needs of students. We need a commitment from City Hall to ensure every child can succeed. As the largest school district in the nation, this is a great responsibility. Bill de Blasio stands ready to work with New York City's principals, teachers and parents to meet the needs of our students. He will work tirelessly to implement policies and programs that will create great schools in every neighborhood, and prepare all children for success in college and career.



### **Establish Truly Universal Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten.**

Our economic future depends on the best-trained, best-educated workforce in the world — and that starts with pre-K. By 2020, China will enroll 70 percent of children in three years of pre-school. India will have twice as many children prepared to learn on their first day of school by 2018.<sup>10</sup> But in New York City, tens of thousands of children do not receive any pre-K education. Bill de Blasio will increase the city's income tax on earners over \$500,000, from 3.86 percent to 4.41 percent. This five-year surcharge would yield \$530 million in new revenue to pay for universal pre-K for all 4-year-olds and fund after-school programs for all middle school students.

### **Offer After-School Programs for All Middle School Students.**

Over the last several years in New York City, after-school programs have been dramatically cut from 87,000 slots in 2008, to roughly 20,000 slots for FY 2014.<sup>11</sup> Bill de Blasio has called for a large-scale expansion of after-school programs for all middle school students by taxing New York's wealthiest residents. The extended learning time in after-school programs helps our students make positive gains in their academic performance, benefit from

diverse programs that enrich learning, improve communication skills with adults, decrease behavioral problems, and it offers young people alternatives to trouble on the streets.

**Ensure All Students are Reading at Grade Level by Third-Grade.** A key indicator in determining if a child is falling behind is if he or she is reading at the appropriate grade level. Third grade is a pivotal year in development, as children switch from learning to read to reading comprehension. One in six students who cannot read at their grade level by the third grade does not graduate high school on time. This hurts a student's ability to go to college or get a good job.<sup>12</sup> That's why reading at grade level must be an urgent priority. Bill de Blasio will ensure there are strong reading programs in every school that allow teachers and parents to continually monitor student progress in reading at grade level, and support students should they begin to fall behind. De Blasio will work with community partners to establish community and school-based reading programs, and he will raise awareness about the importance of reading at grade level through summer reading programs and expanded partnerships between DOE and the city's three public library systems.

**Improve Special Education.** There are 183,000 — or 17 percent — of students with disabilities in New York City public schools. But only 31 percent of all students classified as having disabilities graduate high school, and only 4 percent of students who are in self-contained classrooms graduate from high school.<sup>9</sup> The status quo is not working, and Bill de Blasio will commit to getting the implementation of Special Education Reform right with real reforms that provide the educational preparation for college and careers upon graduation. The city needs to work with local universities to strengthen professional development for principals and teachers, strengthen IEP teams by providing access to intensive professional services, better balance students with disabilities population in home-zoned schools, and to reform the SESIS data system to provide a more user-friendly and appropriate technology system for teachers, IEP teams and families.

**Lower the Stakes on Testing.** We all know that a single test should not be the sole determining factor of success in learning and development. Students learn in different ways, and our evaluation system for students and schools must reflect that reality. Bill de Blasio will remove single-test criteria for all admissions and gifted and talented decisions, including selective schools, and he will expand the use of portfolio assessments in schools. In addition, in his first year in office, Bill de Blasio will eliminate letter grades of schools. Overall progress reports will remain available for parents, and educators, experts and parents will be convened to determine if the progress reports are the most effective long-term way to evaluate schools.

**Involve and Engage Parents and Families.** Bill de Blasio will ensure increased and improved parent participation in decision-making at the school level and at DOE, and he will redirect the Department of Education to be more inclusive of parents by identifying model parent engagement schools and mirror these practices across the school system, ensuring that district superintendent offices provide all needed information about admissions, programs

and special education services. Bill de Blasio will work with Community Education Councils (CECs) to develop district plans for each school year, work collaboratively with the DOE in assessing space issues and struggling schools in need of support. We should ensure that all PTA and CEC meetings are streamed online and promote flexible schedules for parent-teacher conferences that include, where possible, options for night or weekend slots.

**Expand Community Schools Model in High Poverty Neighborhoods.** When it comes to preparing all children for college and careers, high quality schools must be the focal point for serving the needs of students and their families with a cradle to career strategy. New York City has incredible community school models, including Children’s Aid Society and Harlem Children’s Zone. Yet despite their proven success, these schools only serve a handful of students. Bill de Blasio will create a unified effort to develop a minimum of 100 community schools by the end of his first term. With improved communication among all city agencies — especially the Departments of Education, Homeless Services, and the Administration for Children Services — the city can make real strides in serving families and students in their communities.

**Increase Focus on College and Career Readiness.** Only 13 percent of black and Latino males are prepared for college by current DOE standards, and most of New York City students who attend our CUNY system have to take remedial courses. Bill de Blasio will not only continue the Young Men’s Initiative, but he will ensure that as an education system, all our children have a path to college or career by creating partnerships between high schools and the CUNY/SUNY system. De Blasio will expand Advanced Placement programs, Early College, and dual high school/college models. And Bill de Blasio will expand Career and Technical Education programs to meet the demand of high-growth job fields by focusing on placing non-college-bound students in jobs upon graduation.





**Reduce Class Size.** Reducing class size is critical for boosting learning, yet class sizes have increased over the last four years. Bill de Blasio will create a targeted class size reduction plan for our early grades and in hard-to-teach grades, such as ninth grade, in struggling schools. De Blasio will create Early Education Centers within communities that will free up classroom space currently used for pre-kindergarten in community schools, fight for the \$3 billion in court-ordered state funding owed to New York City to reduce class sizes as a result of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, audit the Contracts for Excellence budget to see how we can re-prioritize reducing class size, and work with school supervisors and principals to adjust the school day schedule and maximize staff time with students.



**Recruit and Retain Teachers.** Bill de Blasio will make it a priority to provide schools with a pool of knowledgeable, caring and committed teachers. The city needs to encourage New Yorkers to consider teaching as a profession by expanding “grow your own” programs in high schools, teacher residency programs, and partnerships with CUNY and SUNY colleges to expand the pool of potential teachers, paraprofessionals and related service providers. The best way to keep teachers in our schools is to create career paths that encourage quality teachers to remain in teaching, such as Lead Teachers and Master Teachers.<sup>13</sup> Lead Teachers — used in a small proportion of city schools — mentor new and struggling teachers, develop curriculum, and generally strengthen the professional development of their peers.





**Place Great Leaders to Lead Great Teachers in Every School.** With the new teacher evaluations mandated by the state, principals will now have discretion in determining 80 percent of the criteria by which teachers will be judged, making it even more critical that principals have both the skill and trust needed to effectively evaluate teachers on their school team. Bill de Blasio is proposing to improve principal recruitment, development and support because we need to build a new pipeline of strong school leaders in our lowest-performing schools.

We need a new leadership-training model that requires all principals to have a demonstrated track record successfully leading teachers before being promoted. We also need more cost-effective and comprehensive support for new principals, such as scaling up programs like the Collaborative Leadership to Advance School Success (C.L.A.S.S.) and Scaffolded Apprenticeship Model (SAM) at Baruch College. The city should reduce bureaucratic paperwork for principals and move more day-to-day operational responsibilities to school business managers or assistant principals, making clear that the core responsibility of principals should

be leading academic instruction and supporting the professional development of teachers in their schools.

**Strengthen Citywide Oversight and Support For Schools.** The DOE needs to recruit superintendents that can support principals and strengthen citywide monitoring of all schools. Bill de Blasio believes we need to establish an evaluation office responsible for all DOE initiatives and programs, generating data for system-wide decision-making and examining the innovations attempted by charter schools. We need to develop strong district superintendents who will be able to encourage, coach, support, and hold principals and schools accountable for steady progress toward quality schools and build support for Partner Support Organizations (PSOs) with proven success in supporting schools and student achievement as “learning laboratories.” All schools need to be monitored on a comprehensive set of performance indicators that measure student readiness for success, with an Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment guiding schools in implementing rigorous standard-based instruction and assessment.



**Turn Struggling Schools Around.** Bill de Blasio believes that Mayor Bloomberg’s closing of more than 140 schools<sup>14</sup> has been an excuse not to address ways to help struggling schools improve and meet our expectations that all students graduate ready for college or a career. The city needs to create an early warning system for schools, so they can receive help before they get on the state’s Persistently Low Achieving list. An “Office of Strategic Support,” housed in the DOE, will develop intervention strategies in conjunction with the school communities and target individual high-need schools, which will receive short-term, intensive support.

The War Room team at the DOE and mayor’s office will work with the city’s most challenging schools to increase educational attainment. The War Room team will collaborate with all school stakeholders to analyze key indicators of student success, review accounts of school successes and challenges, and implement support plans. When school leadership is deemed to be a failure, the city should do more than replace the person at the top.<sup>15</sup> Instead, the city should have a Strategic Staffing Initiative where struggling schools would receive an experienced principal with success in turning around a school, as well as a complete team to assist that principal — including an assistant principal, a literacy coach, an expert in behavioral management and up to five teachers with success in helping struggling classrooms.<sup>16</sup> The War Room approach, along with the development of the Strategic Staffing Initiative, will increase the likelihood of success in turning around our city’s struggling schools.

**Improve Mayoral Control.** Bill de Blasio believes in mayoral control, but he also knows we must do a better job of involving and listening to parents. His plan to revamp mayoral control will allow Community Education Councils an advisory vote on major school utilization changes in their communities, which will influence and provide insight to the Panel for Education Policy (PEP). The role of Citywide Education Councils (high schools, special education, English Language Learners, D 75) will be enhanced by ensuring they can provide written recommendations to the Panel for Education Policy on issues related to their respective councils.

**Make School Breakfasts More Available.** As a City Council member and as Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio has supported many of Mayor Bloomberg’s public health initiatives, especially around obesity prevention. However, the city’s policy around meals in schools is foolish for the health of our children — and our budgets. Arguing that breakfast in classrooms could increase childhood obesity, Mayor Bloomberg has opposed mandating free breakfast in school classrooms. As a result, fewer than 5 percent of our schools allow breakfast in all classrooms, and only 20 percent of our schools provide free breakfast in some classrooms. In our school system, only 35 percent of our children receive the free breakfasts they are entitled to—while next door in Newark, 95 percent of the children receive breakfast. As a result, every year, the city misses out on more than \$50 million in federal aid designed to keep our kids from going hungry. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will require schools to make free breakfasts available in classrooms.<sup>17</sup>





**Strengthen School Safety.** Bill de Blasio knows we cannot keep relying on 911 calls and unfair suspensions and arrests to solve minor student misbehavior. These practices are not just overused and unproductive — they disproportionately hurt students of color and students with disabilities. Instead, we need to empower principals by giving them the resources and tools to deal with student misbehavior. Bill de Blasio’s plan will expand the community school model, which helps address mental health needs in our city’s school system, build capacity in schools for positive discipline strategies, and expand student support services through multi-agency/service provider collaboration.

Schools should adopt a Graduated Response Protocol to resolve student misbehavior at the school level, and use School Safety Agents (SSA) to focus on behavior that requires law enforcement response by integrating SSAs with school administration teams and conducting conferencing between SSAs and principals prior to arrests. We also need to improve educational planning for court-involved youth and educational re-engagement for placed and sentenced youth.

**Maintain Mandated Sex Education in Schools.**

While recent Department of Health and Mental Hygiene data revealed that the city’s teen pregnancy rate fell 27 percent in the last decade, there are still more than 20,000 teen pregnancies annually, 87 percent of which are unin-

tended.<sup>18</sup> In the summer of 2011, Mayor Bloomberg mandated sex education classes for middle school and high school students in New York City public schools. If elected, Bill de Blasio will continue this policy and expand support to New York City schools as they carry it out.

**Improve School Transportation.** Students with disabilities are disproportionately affected by poor bus service. On one day alone, 398 bus delays were posted. Of these, 76 percent were special education routes.<sup>19</sup> Bill de Blasio will reduce the maximum time limit students with disabilities are allowed to spend on the bus. De Blasio will also ensure parents are notified if there are bus delays exceeding 15 minutes, and clarify the lines of communication, so that parents have one point of contact when they have a question or complaint.

**Ensure Every Child Receives Arts Education.** Research shows that arts education helps children learn to think critically and creatively, and is positively correlated to attendance and graduation rates.<sup>20</sup> Yet too many New York City students do not receive the arts instruction required by law. Especially troubling: schools with lower-income students tend to offer the least access to the arts. Bill de Blasio will establish a four-year goal of ensuring that every child in every school receives a well-rounded education, including the learning standards required by the State Education Department, taught by certified arts instructors.

# SAFE STREETS, SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS NEW YORK CITY

New York City is the safest big city in the country because of constant innovation and dedicated policing. At the same time, New York is a Tale of Two Cities when it comes to the burdensome impact of overly-aggressive tactics that force a needless wedge between the NYPD and many communities across our city.

Bill de Blasio's vision for public safety will maintain our advances in crime reduction by utilizing technology and smart anti-crime tactics. But he will also mend divisions between police and communities with important, much-needed reforms.





## The De Blasio Record on Fighting Crime and Public Safety

Bill de Blasio is committed to keeping New Yorkers safe. Throughout his public service career, de Blasio has fought to build a robust public safety infrastructure and advocated for positive police-community relationships.



**Fighting For Meaningful Stop-and-Frisk Reform.** Bill de Blasio has used the office of the Public Advocate to extensively study how the tactic of stop-question-frisk is applied across New York. De Blasio initiated a report that revealed troubling racial disparities. Data shows that police stopped 49 white New Yorkers for every weapon taken off the streets, compared to 71 Latino New Yorkers, and 93 black New Yorkers stopped for every weapon yielded.<sup>21</sup> This information strongly suggests racial profiling is used in stop-and-frisk, which sows seeds of distrust and animosity in communities of color toward the police. Reinforcing this concern, testimony in the *Floyd v. New York* case suggested that NYPD brass requires quotas even in the absence of suspicion of crime.<sup>22</sup> When communities in New York feel that the police officers are antagonists rather than partners in keeping their neighborhoods safe, it puts residents and officers at risk. Bill de Blasio has pushed for real reforms in stop-and-frisk by organizing communities and calling on Mayor Bloomberg to immediately end the overuse and abuse of this tactic. That's why he has called for new leadership at the NYPD, an inspector general, and a strong racial profiling bill.

**Increasing Police Resources.** Early in his career, Bill de Blasio supported efforts that helped turn the tide in the high crime rates of the 1990s. While working in the Dinkins Administration, Bill de Blasio was part of the team that passed the "Safe Streets, Safe City" initiative, which significantly expanded the number of NYPD officers on

the streets and helped reverse the terrible trends in violent crime. As a member of the City Council and Public Advocate, he has pushed to give police officers the resources they need. These actions include fighting for the passage of the Zadroga Act for 9/11 First Responders, holding the line on headcount reductions, and addressing the underlying systemic challenges contributing to crime.

**Fighting for Greater Accountability.** Bill de Blasio is a strong advocate for greater transparency and police accountability. He has called for an inspector general at the NYPD, and he helped lead the fight for real power for the Civilian Complaint Review Board by introducing legislation to create true budgetary independence and greater prosecutorial authority for this important oversight agency. Bill de Blasio also pushed for a federal investigation into private immigrant detention facilities and urged the revocation of the contract held with the GEO Group, after allegations surfaced of detainee abuse and mismanagement.

**Supporting Commonsense Gun Safety.** Bill de Blasio has pushed for strong gun safety laws at the state level and for the promotion of industry-wide standards in gun safety, including microstamping. De Blasio also led the effort to divest public pension fund holdings in companies that manufacture the most dangerous weapons and launched the "Wall Street for Change" campaign to support gun divestment of prominent hedge funds and money managers nationwide.

## A Safer City For Every New Yorker

Bill de Blasio's agenda for fighting crime and criminal justice focuses on smart, innovative policing and the restoration of trust between police officers and the communities they serve. To accomplish this, he will expand successful and targeted policing strategies while investing in technologies that support intelligence-driven responses to crime. Bill de Blasio will expand resources for force-multipliers like cameras and gunshot detection technology, and he will demand meaningful oversight and police accountability. He will also address commonsense criminal justice reforms by expanding alternatives to incarceration and increasing the number of community courts across the city. As mayor, he will listen to the voices of community stakeholders in public safety and criminal justice policy.

### Repair Police-Community Relations

**Create an Inspector General For the NYPD.** Real oversight improves public safety by fostering trust in our police force. To accomplish this, Bill de Blasio will create an inspector general for the New York City Police Department. This position will have real investigatory powers and a truly independent budget to shield it from political reprisal. Virtually every major law enforcement agency nationwide has similar oversight agencies, as does nearly every major city agency.<sup>23</sup> After growing community demands for police accountability, Bill de Blasio will provide the leadership necessary to finally create this important office.

**Stop Racial Profiling.** Some of our approaches to public safety — such as stop-and-frisk — disproportionately target people of color and create anger and distrust toward officers when we need more cooperation between cops and communities. Innocent New Yorkers should not be subject to invasive and baseless searches strictly on the account of race. Bill de Blasio will sign legislation to end racial profiling.

**New Leadership at One Police Plaza.** We need a new vision for the New York City Police Department, committed to reform, and this demands a new police commissioner. Commissioner Kelly has guided the NYPD through many challenges and should be credited for major gains made in public safety over the years. At the same time, One Police Plaza has been largely deaf to community concerns and unresponsive to demands for greater transparency. To truly turn a corner and embrace needed change, Bill de Blasio will select a police commissioner with demonstrable successes in driving down crime and the ability to mend police-community relations.



**Direct the NYPD to Reduce Arrests for Marijuana Violations.** In New York City, nearly 50,000 people were arrested last year for marijuana possession.<sup>24</sup> Low-level marijuana possession arrests have disastrous consequences for individuals and their families. These arrests limit one's ability to qualify for student financial aid and undermine one's ability to find stable housing and good jobs. What's more, recent studies demonstrate clear racial bias in arrests for low-level possession, with African-Americans arrested four times more frequently as whites — despite roughly equal usage rates.<sup>25</sup> This policy is unjust and wrong.

First-time offenses for possession of small amounts of marijuana are supposed to be punishable by fine only, unless publicly displayed. Commissioner Kelly instructed NYPD officers to stop making arrests for marijuana possession unless it is in public view.<sup>26</sup> However, too many young African-Americans and Hispanics — without prior convictions — are still arrested for marijuana possession after being stopped and frisked by police, who then treat it as public display.

Bill de Blasio will direct the NYPD to stop these misguided prosecutions and push for the passage of Governor Cuomo's marijuana possession law, which would remove criminal penalties for marijuana possession under 15 grams.<sup>27</sup> Bill de Blasio will enforce these standards and ensure cases of marijuana found through police stops are treated as possessions, not public displays. These commonsense changes will help reverse the racial impact of low-level marijuana arrests and align policing practices with constitutional protections.

## **Innovative, Data-Driven Policing**

**Commit to Key Anti-Violence Strategies.** Despite reductions in crime rates, gun violence continues to plague communities across the city.<sup>28</sup> Illegal weapon possession and the prevalence of street crews wreak havoc in many neighborhoods. Mayor Bloomberg has demonstrated true leadership in addressing gun violence, but we cannot rely on stop-and-frisk to deter gun possession. We need a scalpel — not an axe — to target the small number of individuals responsible for gun violence. Bill de Blasio will make smart, targeted, and zero-tolerance policing a centerpiece of his crime-fighting agenda by supporting and expanding Operation Crew Cut and Focused Deterrence. These proven approaches target the real criminals — and stand in sharp contrast to inefficient dragnet tactics like stop-and-frisk.<sup>29</sup> The fact that crime rates have continued to decline — while the NYPD has reduced stop-and-frisk — indicate that strategies like Crew Cut and Focused Deterrence are effective in getting the real criminals.<sup>30</sup>

**Expand Camera Use in All Five Boroughs.** Cameras are essential tools in fighting crime, but they are heavily concentrated in Manhattan. Bill de Blasio will reduce the borough deficit in camera coverage by increasing the number of Argus cameras — particularly in high-crime areas in the outer boroughs. These cameras are technologically advanced and have analytic capabilities that are proven force multipliers — helping to deter criminal activity and aid in crime-solving efforts.

In addition, Bill de Blasio will bring together businesses, city agencies, and law enforcement to break down technical barriers and better integrate camera networks. De Blasio will push for the Safe Streets Security Camera Act to create a private security camera registry, which will aid law enforcement officials in solving crime.

**Increase Shot Spotter.** Only 20 percent of shots fired are reported to the police, and nearly 40 percent of victimizations involving a firearm go unreported to law enforcement.<sup>31</sup> The number of unreported gun crime diminishes accountability and limits the ability of the police to catch perpetrators of gun violence. To address this, Bill de Blasio will invest in Shot Spotter technology — integrated audio and video gun sensors — for the 15 highest crime neighborhoods. Shot Spotter is proven to greatly expand the ability of law enforcement to respond to gun crime and has been adopted by police departments nationwide. With Shot Spotter, every shot is detected and linked to camera footage that is sent to dispatched police officers. This technology helps to deter gun violence and empowers responding officers with better information, improving safety and response to violent crime.

**Investing in Our Youth.** The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the most dangerous for our youth. Bill de Blasio is an uncompromising supporter of quality after-school programs that help keep kids off the streets and contribute to better school performance. Unfortunately, Mayor Bloomberg has repeatedly cut after-school programs, despite their value for public safety and academic excellence.<sup>32</sup> This must change. That's why Bill de Blasio has proposed a tax on the wealthiest New Yorkers to fund universal after-school programs. He will reverse Bloomberg's divestment to ensure every young New Yorker has a safe place to go after school where they can expand and enrich their learning — while staying on the right path and out of trouble.





## Strengthen the Profession

**Maintain Force Levels.** One of the most important factors in New York’s crime decline has been the size of our police force. However, attrition and budget cuts have reduced the overall headcount from 40,000 uniformed staff members to approximately 34,000 today.<sup>33</sup> This is the absolute floor in police department headcount, and any further reduction will undermine our hard-fought successes. Bill de Blasio will hold the line on NYPD headcount to ensure staffing levels never drop below 34,000. In addition, de Blasio will bring the roughly 500 police officers that are currently doing civilian duties back to patrol duty. This commonsense step will expand the number of officers patrolling our streets, and the Independent Budget Office estimates that civilianization will save the city \$16.5 million.<sup>34</sup>

**Develop the Next Generation of NYPD Officers.** New Yorkers should have a clear career pathway into the NYPD. As a strong believer that Career and Technical Education leads to high-wage, high-growth and high-skill professions, Bill de Blasio proposes the creation of an early college public safety high school that prepares young people for future professions in the NYPD. While there are programs within schools where students can learn about the field, Bill de Blasio is proposing a new, rigorous CTE program that would be a grade 9-14 high school that is linked with John Jay College for Criminal Justice and the NYPD. Graduating students would be able to accumulate enough college credits to either apply directly with the NYPD or continue to college to complete their degrees.



## **Improve Access to Justice**

**Expand Community Justice Centers.** Bill de Blasio believes that crime reduction and public safety are not served by aggressively pursuing incarceration of nonviolent offenders — particularly when cases demand rehabilitative and holistic multi-agency responses. That’s why he is a strong supporter of Community Justice Centers. These collaborative problem-solving courts bring together multiple agencies to offer minor offenders smarter, better alternatives. New York’s five existing Community Justice Centers have provided a model for court systems nationwide and have clear, demonstrable successes in reducing recidivism and addressing criminal behavior.<sup>35</sup> As mayor, Bill de Blasio will expand the number of Community Justice Centers across the city.

**Expand Alternatives to Incarceration.** Incarceration can be the most expensive and, in many cases, most counter-productive option in responding to crime. Criminal records have enormous social, emotional and economic costs, and are at times inconsistent with the nature of the offense.

Alternatives to incarceration provide sentencing options for people who would be better served by different solutions, including drug treatment, mental health care, or community sentencing restitution. When targeted carefully, they are proven to be effective in addressing the underlying causes of criminal behavior, but we need greater capacity to fully address the needs of our justice-involved population.<sup>36</sup> Bill de Blasio is committed to supporting a robust ATI network in New York City, particularly for juvenile offenders.

**Ease Path to Employment For the Formerly Incarcerated.** Finding a job is one of the best ways to keep the formerly-incarcerated from returning to jail. However, too often, employers won’t even consider an applicant with a criminal record, regardless of the type of crime, how long ago it occurred, or whether or not it is job related. City policy requires the government to consider an applicant’s full range of skills and not dismiss a job candidate out-of-hand for a criminal record, increasing the chances that he or she can be found qualified for employment and avoid recidivism.<sup>37</sup> Bill de Blasio supports legislation to extend this policy to private employers.



## SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

We live a Tale of Two Cities. The wealthiest New Yorkers enjoy a life of luxury, while many working and retired families can barely pay the rent. At the very bottom, 50,000 New Yorkers sleep in shelters every night.<sup>38</sup> But the challenge is much greater. Almost half of all New Yorkers spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing — and one-third of households spend at least half on housing.<sup>39</sup>

In 10 years, New York City has lost nearly as many affordable apartments as it has built or preserved.<sup>40</sup> Gentrification, unscrupulous landlords, and the real estate lobby's hold on government have pulled tens of thousands of apartments out of rent stabilization, and more are lost every year.

## The De Blasio Record on Affordable Housing

Bill de Blasio has worked for affordable housing throughout his career. He served as regional director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under then-Secretary Andrew Cuomo and President Bill Clinton. **As a member of the City Council, Bill de Blasio wrote the law that stopped landlords from discriminating against tenants based on their source of income** and championed cost-effective preventive solutions for New Yorkers at risk of becoming homeless.

As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio took on negligent landlords with his NYC's Worst Landlords Watch List, passed legislation to protect tenants facing winter without heat, secured repairs at one of the city's most notorious housing developments, and leveraged the power of city subsidies to demand the highest standards of affordable housing.

**NYC's Worst Landlords Watch List.** Since its launch in 2010, approximately 250,000 unique visitors have used NYC's Worst Landlords Watch List to look up their buildings, organize with fellow tenants, and pressure bad landlords into providing safe, decent apartments — making it one of the most-used resources in city government. Thanks to tenant organizing and media pressure spurred by the Watch List, more than 320 buildings have been substantially repaired and removed from the list. The model is so successful it is featured on Craigslist as a tool for apartment hunters and has been replicated by the City of Vancouver.

**Protecting Tenants Without Heat.** When tenants in run-down buildings faced winter after winter without heat and hot water, Bill de Blasio introduced and passed a law toughening penalties on the worst offenders. For an unscrupulous owner trying to cut costs by cutting off tenants' heat, the Heat Enforcement for All Tenants (HEAT) Act changed the equation and ensured real consequences for landlords leaving tenants in the cold.

**Providing Legal Access in Housing Court.** More than 90 percent of tenants go to Housing Court without a lawyer,<sup>41</sup> and losing a case can mean eviction. As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio founded an innovative pilot program with South Brooklyn Legal Services to partner attorneys in need of courtroom experience with tenants who lacked representation in Housing Court. The initiative is just beginning to help vulnerable tenants, and it provides a model that can be expanded to help more people in need in the future.



**Standing Up For Working Families at Flatbush Gardens.** When 10,000 tenants at one of Brooklyn’s oldest affordable housing developments faced deteriorating apartments and management threatening to evict them, Bill de Blasio stood by their side. De Blasio took on the notorious landlord, David Bistricher, and successfully pressured him to make thousands of long-overdue repairs to the complex. De Blasio fought alongside tenants to keep the complex affordable and even succeeded in forcing the landlord to pay \$150,000 in back fines to the city.

**Untangling the Housing Authority’s Bureaucracy.** Bill de Blasio was first on the scene to raise the alarm and secure the rent assistance tenants and landlords were owed when the city’s Housing Authority’s new computer system inadvertently purged low-income tenants from its Section 8 program. Those rent payments were critical to keeping vulnerable seniors and families in their homes, and ensuring landlords of smaller buildings could keep up with expenses.

## A Vision: Safe, Affordable Housing for Every New Yorker

Bill de Blasio’s vision for housing in New York City recognizes that new buildings aren’t exclusively for the wealthy, development reinforces middle-class neighborhoods instead of weakening them, and that the fundamental rights of tenants must be protected. His plan will build or preserve nearly 200,000 affordable units, and help both tenants and small landlords preserve the quality and affordability of their homes.

**End Giveaways For Big Developers and Enact Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning.** New York used to build for the middle class. Today, it seems to build only for the wealthy. Bill de Blasio believes that when neighborhoods are re-zoned — unlocking enormous value for building owners — developers should be required to build affordable housing for low- and middle-income families in return, a concept known as mandatory inclusionary zoning. By converting incentives to hard-and-fast rules, Bill de Blasio’s plan will create 50,000 new affordable housing units over the next decade.

**Put Our Pension Funds to Work in NYC.** New York City has more than \$130 billion in public pension funds,<sup>42</sup> but barely 1 percent has been invested here in the five boroughs. Those investments have earned a solid return, put New Yorkers to work, and helped refurbish thousands of affordable homes across the city. As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio helped spur more locally targeted investment — but we can go even further. As mayor, de Blasio will direct \$1 billion in city pension funds to affordable housing construction, preserving 11,000 new units.<sup>43</sup>

**Unlock Vacant Properties and Direct New Revenue to Affordable Housing.** Real estate speculators have left thousands of lots vacant across the five boroughs. In boom neighborhoods like Williamsburg, entire blocks are left idle while big developers wait for prices to rise, so they can reap even bigger profits. A tax loophole actually encourages this kind of speculation; vacant residential land has an ultra-low property tax rate. But while developers wait to reap profits, New York City is at the grips of an affordable housing crisis. We can unlock that land to build new homes by closing the tax loophole, and applying the same tax rate to big, vacant lots as we do to commercial properties. The change would spur a new wave of affordable housing construction, and the new tax proceeds from land left idle would be earmarked for a city affordable housing fund, creating 4,000 new units.<sup>44</sup>

Creating a new non-profit land bank to efficiently acquire, temporarily warehouse, and transfer vacant properties would give the city new agility to expedite development of affordable housing. In addition, conducting an annual census of vacant properties—like Boston<sup>45</sup> and other cities





do—would give the city the information it lacks today to target new initiatives.

Finally, providing additional flexibility in the transfer of development rights would create more potential for affordable housing around desirable high-density locations, such as near transit hubs.

**Protect Renters, Including Seniors and Renters with Disabilities.** Bill de Blasio will keep working and middle class people from being priced out of the neighborhoods they helped build. As mayor, he will fight to retake control of rent rules from Albany, so we can make our own decisions again. Bill de Blasio will also support tenants fighting to maintain the affordability of their homes through organizing efforts in complexes like Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village, Independence Plaza, and Riverton. And to protect tenants in rent-regulated apartments from wrongful eviction, Bill de Blasio will expand the innovative pilot program he launched as Public Advocate to provide pro-bono legal counsel to tenants fighting in Housing Court.

Expanded access to information and legal representation for tenants at risk of eviction will help keep families in their homes. Building on his work in the City Council and as Public Advocate, de Blasio will target revenue streams to fund information programs and civil legal services that cost-effectively prevent evictions.

Bill de Blasio also supports initiatives that would improve outreach for and increase access to the Senior Citizen Rent

Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs.

**Bring Basements and Granny Flats into the Legal System.** There are thousands of unsanctioned housing units across the city in basements and above garages<sup>46</sup> — but the city doesn't recognize them. That deprives tenants of legal protections, and prevents landlords from making the kinds of upgrades that would ensure the health and safety of families living in them. Bill de Blasio will end the practice of pretending these homes and their families don't exist. As mayor, he will bring them into the regulated housing system, ensure they meet legal standards for safety, and work to bring them under rent-regulation, so their tenants will have the same basic protections as New Yorkers in traditional apartments.

**Enforce Standards for Affordability.** The city's New Housing Marketplace Plan has delivered less than promised, with many units at the high end of the affordability spectrum (including subsidies for studios renting for more than \$2,000). We must set tighter standards that ensure subsidies meet the needs of lower-income families and are distributed equitably throughout the five boroughs.

**Help Homeowners and Small Buildings Keep Costs Down.** Mayor Bloomberg and Speaker Quinn boast that they haven't raised taxes, but homeowners and landlords know better. They are squeezed from every side—from sanitation fines to city fees—but few expenses are as infuriating as ever-rising water bills. Bill de Blasio has pledged

to end the “hidden tax” of using water bill hikes to pad the city’s general budget, and de Blasio will only ask homeowners to pay enough to keep the system in good working order. He’ll also revamp the appeals processes at a host of city agencies, so that homeowners have an honest shot at appealing tickets and bills they believe are unfair.

**Build a National Coalition For Affordable Housing and Tap Private Funding Sources.** New York City can’t solve the affordable housing crisis on its own. From his experience with HUD, Bill de Blasio knows how to spur the federal government into action for vulnerable tenants. As mayor of the nation’s largest city and biggest public housing authority, de Blasio will rally the country’s cities around a new urban agenda in Congress for public housing, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, Section 8 rent vouchers, and other crucial components of the affordability matrix. In addition, the city should ensure that Housing Development Corporation revenue is reinvested in affordable housing; we can encourage banks to satisfy their obligations under the Community Reinvestment Bank through the financing of affordable housing.

**Make Our Public Housing the Pride of Our City.** The city has laws against landlords who fail to provide heat, who don’t repair broken elevators, and those who don’t remove toxic mold. Yet every day, the nearly 600,000 people who live in public housing see those same conditions around them and wait years for help to arrive.<sup>47</sup>

New York City needs a mayor who takes ownership of our public housing crisis and fixes it. As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio fought for thousands of NYCHA tenants to secure repairs and wrestle with bureaucracy. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will put new energy behind health and safety repairs, eliminating NYCHA’s notorious backlog. De Blasio will bring NYCHA up to code with real, substantive repairs made by a dedicated workforce drawn from public housing residents.

**Help Small Landlords Maintain Affordable Housing.**

Unabated market forces threaten the homes of hundreds of thousands of working-class families living in smaller, multi-family housing. Helping small landlords maintain their properties through HUD funding streams must be a priority. The city can extend the reach of community development corporations that provide the technical assistance essential for effective property management. Finally, a few simple steps can make Section 8 housing easier to administer and increase the range of choices for subsidized tenants.

**Guarantee Access to Emergency Homeless Shelters.**

No family should get caught in bureaucratic red tape while trying to access a shelter when they lack alternative housing options.<sup>48</sup> Bill de Blasio will reform unfair and overly punitive eligibility review rules that deny shelter to too many needy families.

**Face Down the Homelessness Crisis.**

More than 50,000 New Yorkers, including 21,000 children,<sup>48</sup> will go to sleep in a New York City homeless shelter tonight. This is a stain on a city that boasts so much wealth, and it’s a terrible crisis for struggling families. For years, the city has treated only the symptoms of homelessness—simply building shelter. But Mayor Bloomberg has walked away from solving the problem and refused to provide housing support for families on the brink.

It’s time to change that. Bill de Blasio will work with state and federal partners to establish a new housing support program for families at risk of losing their homes or those who find themselves on the streets. New vouchers will enable them to afford private housing — at a fraction of the cost of a shelter stay. And as mayor, Bill de Blasio will reverse the Bloomberg administration’s policy and make a portion of Section 8 vouchers and vacant NYCHA apartments available again to homeless families leaving shelter. These are tried-and-tested solutions that help families avoid crisis.



## BETTER TRANSIT FOR NEW YORK CITY

New Yorkers have some of the nation's longest commute times — and the farther you go from Manhattan, the longer those commutes become. Workers in Brooklyn and Queens spend, on average, more than an hour and 20 minutes on buses, trains, or behind the wheel every day.<sup>49</sup> In far too many communities, trains are at capacity and buses are stuck in traffic. Commuters face never-ending fare hikes. These problems only deepen New York City's economic divide and add more strain to working families that are trying to make ends meet.

For New York City to thrive as a 21st century economy, and for working families to make ends meet, our city needs a fast, reliable and affordable transportation system. We need innovative ways to rebuild and expand public transit. We need safer streets that help seniors and families with children connect with their neighborhoods. And we need a more accessible and connected system that links trains, buses, bicycles, commuter rail and pedestrian spaces into a unified whole that serves every New Yorker.

## The De Blasio Record on Transportation

Bill de Blasio has stood up for outer-borough neighborhoods that don't receive fair or reliable service from their transit system.

**Fighting For Outer-Borough Transit.** Bill de Blasio rallied small businesses and residents along the G-train to preserve five extra stops the MTA was considering to close — and helped keep them open permanently.<sup>50</sup> The G-train is the Brooklyn-Queens crosstown local, and it's the only subway line that doesn't serve Manhattan.

**Saving Transit Service in Communities Hit Hard by Sandy.** When the Rockaways faced the loss of mid-day service on its shuttle buses that replaced the Sandy-damaged A-train, Bill de Blasio fought for seniors and working

families who needed this last connection to the rest of New York City.<sup>51</sup>

**Improving traffic in Local Communities.** As a Brooklyn City Council member, Bill de Blasio fought for safer streets in neighborhoods throughout his district. De Blasio worked with civic groups to ease traffic in residential areas overrun by commuter cars, won more car-free hours in Prospect Park, and helped expand the bicycle network. He also fought for traffic calming at dangerous intersections.

## The De Blasio Vision For New York City Transportation

Bill de Blasio will deliver a safe, sustainable and affordable transportation system that can drive our economy and contribute to vibrant neighborhoods across all five boroughs. De Blasio will prioritize long-neglected parts of the outer boroughs, alleviate dangerous conditions that make streets unsafe, and work toward a more efficient and flexible network that delivers real choice for New Yorkers.

**World-Class Bus Rapid Transit.** Bus riders are the most neglected part of our transportation system. Routes like the Bronx's Bx19 can barely crack five miles per hour.<sup>52</sup> Cross-town buses in Manhattan are literally slower than walking. And service cuts to outer-borough communities since 2010 have meant longer walks to the nearest bus stop and more time waiting for a bus to arrive.<sup>53</sup>

The city and the MTA have innovated new Bus Rapid Transit routes to speed up service, and the results show that painted lanes, easier boarding and pre-paid fares have modestly reduced commute times. It's time to take the next step. Bill de Blasio will work to phase in the creation of a citywide Bus Rapid Transit network with more than

20 lines, linking communities underserved by transit to the city's primary transportation and employment hubs. These routes will offer one-seat commutes from Co-op City to the West Side, from Long Island City to Laguardia Airport, from Flushing to Washington Heights, and from Bay Ridge to Jackson Heights.<sup>54</sup> De Blasio will allocate funding from the city's capital budget to accelerate implementation—at a fraction of the cost of major subway projects. Bus Rapid Transit has the potential to save outer-borough commuters hours off their commute times every week and stimulate economic activity in neighborhoods the subway system doesn't reach.



**Invest in Transportation in the Outer Boroughs.** It isn't enough to keep the system we have — we need to expand it. We've seen a decade pass when every single major expansion of the transit system was made in Manhattan. Projects like a restored 21st Century Penn Station are critical and will need the city's support—but Bill de Blasio will also pursue investments in the outer boroughs, where more New Yorkers live and increasingly work. He will work with the MTA to prioritize and greenlight outer-borough improvements that make use of existing infrastructure and right of ways, like North Shore rail or BRT in Staten Island and expanded Metro-North service to Co-op City and parts of the Bronx.

**Limit MSG Permit to 10 Years and Expand Penn Station.** Penn Station is a key transportation hub for central Manhattan and for the broader New York region, serving over 640,000 riders every day. The station is the gateway through which many commuters enter New York City, and its continued vitality will be an important driver of economic growth and development in the city. However, the station is straining under growing ridership—it currently is more than 100 percent over capacity, as any rider using the station will immediately note.<sup>55</sup> We need to transform Penn Station into a transit hub that will meet the city's future transportation needs, instead of struggling to keep up with current usage. However, while Madison Square Garden sits on top of Penn Station, no expansion is possible for the perpetually overwhelmed station.

Because of this, the City Planning Commission erred this year in granting MSG a 15-year special permit, and it erred

in approving the permit with a loophole that may lock away the city's ability to realize the full promise of surrounding area. We must follow the recommendation made forcefully by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, and limit the permit to 10 years while requiring public hearings and review before any further extension of the permit. By limiting the permit and finding a new home for the arena, we can set the groundwork for a true transformation at Penn Station and for the rest of New York, with a new transportation hub that can accommodate the growth we want to see in our city.

**Revive the Rockaways.** Vulnerable coastal areas like the Rockaways were devastated by Superstorm Sandy. Services like the A-train were disabled for months, adding hours to commutes that were already among the city's longest. New Yorkers in the Rockaways need better, more resilient transit. When the waters receded after Sandy, buses were up and running in a matter of days. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will work with communities from Roxbury to Far Rockaway to develop a new Bus Rapid Transit corridor linking them to hubs like Jamaica. The new service will carry more passengers than existing bus lines, provide a one-seat commute to thousands of riders, and ensure high-quality transit for the peninsula immediately after weather emergencies.

**Build the Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel and Invest in Rail Infrastructure.** It's not all about moving people. Right now, more than 90 percent of the freight to and through our region is shipped by trucks that pollute our air and clog our streets.<sup>56</sup> We need to increase the share of freight that moves by rail, and Bill de Blasio will fight in Washington for



a fully funded Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel to take thousands of trucks off local streets, create good local jobs, and make the entire region more economically competitive. The Environmental Impact Study will be released later this year, and de Blasio will work to ensure this project becomes a significant piece of the Port Authority's long-term strategic plan. We also need to establish intermodal rail yards in New York and in the region east of the Hudson.

To help spur this agenda, Bill de Blasio won't just rely on Washington and Albany. Expanding on his work to invest public pension funds locally, he will work with trustees of the city's \$140 billion-worth public pension funds to identify strategic local transportation infrastructure investments that will foster growth, add good local jobs, and stimulate economic development.

**Keep Fares Affordable.** While City Hall doesn't control the MTA, it has a duty to help protect the affordability of our transit system on behalf of the millions of New Yorkers who use it every day. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will fight to protect the critical financial support of the transit system, including the payroll tax. He will partner with New York City's congressional delegation for a national transportation agenda that fully funds public transit maintenance and expansion, instead of fueling sprawl with unnecessary and wasteful new highways far from urban centers.

**Zero Traffic Fatalities, and Home Rule on Traffic Cameras.** One crash is too many. Every year on New York City streets, hundreds of pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and passengers lose their lives. Bill de Blasio believes in "Vision Zero," an approach that combines education, smarter streets, and strong enforcement to reduce dangerous and illegal behavior on our streets — including speeding, distracted driving, and failure to yield to pedestrians. The

goal: reduce serious injuries and fatalities on our streets to zero. This holistic approach has been implemented around the world and ensures we address every factor that makes streets dangerous, from behavior to road design. **To put us on this path, de Blasio will stop waiting on Albany and fight for home rule, so New York City — on its own — can install red light cameras and speed-enforcement cameras around hundreds of schools and senior centers.** De Blasio will establish more 20 mph zones in residential neighborhoods, so kids and seniors can walk their streets safely. He will be an active partner for communities trying to tame dangerous thoroughfares, including Bruckner Boulevard in the Bronx and Queens Boulevard.<sup>57</sup>



Flickr/K\_Gradinger

**Establish Gateless Tolling.** Even with EZ Pass, toll booths still mean congestion and delay for thousands of drivers every day. The MTA has successfully experimented with gateless tolls on the Henry Hudson Bridge, proving that new technology can allow us to remove toll booths and let motorists make toll crossings without reducing speed, thereby saving time and reducing congestion.<sup>58</sup> Bill de Blasio will work with the MTA to introduce gateless tolling on existing toll bridges that are notoriously traffic-choked, like the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

**Better Bicycling.** Bicycling has become a mainstream way for many New Yorkers to commute to work and travel around the city. It's inexpensive, it promotes public health, and it's a key part of helping the city respond to climate change. Right now, the city's goal is to increase bicycling to 3 percent of all trips by 2020.<sup>59</sup> Bill de Blasio will double that goal—using education, promotion and safer streets to grow bicycling to 6 percent by 2020. De Blasio will continue expanding bike lanes around the city so that bicyclists have a safe, dedicated space to ride—and drivers and pedestrians will have more predictable streets. He will expand the public Bike Share program to outer-borough

neighborhoods and increase education outreach to promote safe riding. With these tools, de Blasio will set a goal of cutting serious cycling injuries and fatalities in half — even as the number of cyclist continues to grow. De Blasio believes strongly that communities deserve a voice in decisions that affect them—and this includes bike lanes. As mayor, de Blasio will expand communication before street changes are installed by notifying residents and small businesses through the distribution of fliers and door-to-door outreach. He will work to address their feedback before projects are installed. By better communicating on the front end, de Blasio will reduce friction and bolster public support for expanding cycling in the city.

**“Accidents” vs. “Crashes.”** Part of making our streets safer is acknowledging the role our language plays in the way we deal with crashes and other incidents. Calling a crash an “accident” relieves all parties of responsibility, and in doing so undermines the city's resolve to investigate crashes and blame responsible parties, where appropriate. In a de Blasio administration, all city agencies will refer to crashes as “crashes,” both operationally and in reports like the NYPD's Accident Data Reports.



## A SAFER, MORE ACCESSIBLE CITY FOR ALL IMMIGRANTS

New York City's history as a place where generations of immigrants have sought freedom and opportunity inspires and defines us. But today, decades of broken national policies have put communities we treasure at risk.

More than 700,000 hardworking members of our communities live in the shadows — subject to extortion by abusive employers and scam artists. Their relationship with law enforcement is destabilized by laws that do not work here in New York—fostering a climate of fear and alienation from civic life.





## The De Blasio Record For Immigrant Communities

From his service in the City Council and as Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio has been dedicated to creating a city that is safe and open to all who come to visit and live here.

**Expanding Language Access.** As chair of the City Council’s General Welfare Committee, Bill de Blasio shepherded through the landmark Benefits Translation for Immigrants law, which guaranteed access to translation services for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers in need.

**Supporting Immigrant Businesses.** As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio partnered with ACCION USA to survey 625 immigrant-owned firms across the five boroughs about the outside help they received. Time and again, immigrant business owners reported they were simply unaware of ways they could get help. Based on this report, Bill de Blasio developed a pilot program to demonstrate how immigrant small businesses can access the help they need from existing city programs.

**Fighting Detention Center Injustices.** Bill de Blasio also stood up against the mistreatment of immigrants in detention centers, especially those operated by private for-profit companies. Many of these facilities, including a center in Queens managed by GEO Group, have been accused

of intolerable treatment of detainees—including sexual abuse and guard brutality. Joining the New York Immigration Coalition and Make the Road New York, Bill de Blasio demanded a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into allegations of abuse at private immigrant detention facilities contracted by the federal government. He also called for the termination of contracts with any company found to have mistreated immigrant detainees.

**Creating DREAM Scholarships.** Working through the Fund for Public Advocacy, the New York Immigration Coalition, and the Korean American Community Foundation, and by harnessing additional non-profit funding, Bill de Blasio created the DREAM fellowship—a scholarship and leadership development program for undocumented college students. Beyond helping dozens of students, the initiative has highlighted the need for enactment of national and state DREAM Act legislation. A second cohort of students just completed the spring semester with the aid of this program.

## A Plan For Bringing New Yorkers Out of the Shadows

Immigrants have always been an essential part of our city's energy, drive and growth — making New York City what it is today. It is critical that New York continues to welcome immigrants and provide opportunity for those who are so important to our future. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will draw from his long record of helping the vibrant and diverse immigrant communities of New York to ensure City Hall is responsive and effective. These fights form the cornerstone of de Blasio's commitment to New York's cherished immigrant communities, and he knows much more must be done to ensure New York City maintains its position as the gateway to opportunity for immigrants.



**Offer a Universal City ID Card to Residents.** Bill de Blasio believes it's time for a city-backed ID card that will allow all residents — including undocumented immigrants — to access basic services like opening a bank account or signing an apartment lease. These identification cards will also help foster better relations between the police and undocumented people, who often choose not to report crimes out of fear they may be deported. In New Haven, Connecticut—which offers a municipal ID to undocumented people—crime in the largely-immigrant Fair Haven community declined 20 percent in the two years after the IDs were introduced, even as crime-reporting increased.<sup>60</sup> San Francisco and Los Angeles have also approved or are close to approving city ID cards.<sup>61, 62</sup>

**Allow Undocumented New Yorkers Access to Driver's Licenses.** Bill de Blasio will work for legislation that would

make New York the fifth state to allow undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses. This will improve roadway safety by getting undocumented people who are already driving on our streets into driver's education classes and covered by auto insurance. It will also help weave undocumented immigrants into the fabric of our shared New York civic life, as Congress debates comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship.

**End Cooperation With Federal 'Detainer Requests' For Minor Violations.** One of the more egregious problems with our broken immigration system is the "federal detainer" process, which, in its current form, compels local police to hand over legal and undocumented immigrants to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement — even for minor crimes committed years ago. Bill de Blasio will end cooperation with abusive federal "detainer requests" for all residents, except those who have been convicted of violent or serious felonies.

**Stop Punishment for Sponsors of Low-Income Immigrants.** Bill de Blasio will end the policy of the city's Human Resources Administration, implemented in 2012, that requires sponsors of legal immigrants to repay the city for any assistance the sponsored immigrant seeks out.<sup>63</sup> New York — the city of immigrants — is the only city with this punitive policy. In some cases, it deters elderly and vulnerable people who are here legally from receiving help they're legally entitled to. In other cases, it places undue financial burdens on sponsors who could be facing economic hardships themselves. Either way, it's a wrong-headed policy that Bill de Blasio will repeal as mayor.





### **Cut Red Tape For Immigrant Domestic Violence**

**Victims Seeking Protection.** Victims of domestic violence and other crimes are eligible for a special visa if they cooperate with prosecutors. However, the visa hinges on various city agencies properly certifying each case<sup>64</sup> — and many agencies are slow and unresponsive to these requests,<sup>65</sup> putting victims at further risk of violence or deportation. Bill de Blasio will fight to standardize and monitor the certification process in each agency to speed requests.

### **Improve School Programs For Students Who Don't Speak English.**

**Speak English.** One hundred and fifty thousand public school students need help learning English, provided through what's known as the English Language Learner (ELL) programs. Less than half of these students graduate from high school. There has been no school system-wide program to bring their achievement up to the level of other students. There are some effective programs that can serve as a model for a citywide effort, which should also include after-school and summer programs, getting parents involved, and better training for teachers.

**Utilize Schools to Provide Immigrant Services.** A small pilot program has allowed community groups and schools to work together to provide services to adult immigrants. This program has been very successful, for example, in helping immigrant parents learn about the college application process and obtain needed documents.<sup>66</sup> Schools are an excellent location to connect immigrant parents with other services, such as English language courses and

health services, and as well to help them obtain a driver's license and the city identification card proposed by Bill de Blasio.

### **Provide Legal Services and Adult Language Training.**

Legal services and programs that help adults learn English, known as ESL—English as a Second Language—are essential in helping immigrants become citizens and become part of our city, in helping them avoid unjustified deportations, and in aiding those seeking asylum handle necessary documentation of their situation. It is critical to use carefully vetted community organizations in different immigrant groups to ensure these services are provided to all who need them.

**Offer Access to Speakers of Other Languages.** More than 1.8 million New York City residents over the age of five need interpretation or translation services<sup>67</sup> to communicate effectively, and they should be offered translation services and documents. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will build on his work in the City Council to expand further access to translation services for New Yorkers in need.

**Protect HHC's Ability to Serve Undocumented Immigrants.** Federal health care reform excludes undocumented immigrants, who will then come to depend even more on the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation for health care. As health care reform is implemented, Bill de Blasio will designate high-ranking officials at HHC and the city's health department to protect immigrant families' access to health care.

# A GOVERNMENT AS GREAT AS OUR CITY

It seems each new day brings with it another disturbing report of a New York public official accused of malfeasance or arrested for corruption. And just as common are the stories of the rich and powerful having their voices heard above the rest of us because of weak laws and loopholes that allow money to permeate our elections. It is enough to shake one's faith in our system.

We can and must do better.

Throughout his career, Bill de Blasio has championed ethics reform and more transparency in government, and he will bring this commitment to City Hall as mayor.



## The De Blasio Record on Good Government

As a City Council member and as Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio has fought for good government—the kind that New Yorkers can trust and respect for its honesty and integrity.

**Leading the Fight Against the Undemocratic Extension of Term Limits.** As a City Council member in 2008, Bill de Blasio led the fight against Mayor Bloomberg's back-room deal to overturn the will of voters and give himself a third term in office.

**Fighting Against Citizens United.** The Citizens United decision delivered a body blow to our democracy and a fair and equitable election system. Over the past three years, Bill de Blasio has successfully pressured companies such as Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan, Citigroup and Morgan Stanley to adopt policies against spending their corporate

treasury dollars in elections. In August 2010, de Blasio also founded the Coalition for Accountability in Political Spending (CAPS), the nation's first and only bipartisan coalition of elected officials dedicated to curbing corporate influence in our elections.

**Reforming Practices at the Board of Elections.** When a host of Election Day snafus in 2010 created chaos, and, in some cases, even disenfranchised voters, Bill de Blasio's office recorded and reported the problems, forcing the Board of Elections to improve some of its procedures for future elections.



**Going Above and Beyond in Disclosure.** From his first day in office as Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio began reporting all meetings with city lobbyists—publishing the information on his website, going above and beyond the disclosure required by law.

**Spurring a Transparency Initiative at the City Council.**

In 2010, Bill de Blasio called for a new searchable database of applications for City Council discretionary funding. After his activism, the Council eventually opened up to provide the information. The Daily News editorialized on this development, giving de Blasio kudos for his advocacy in pushing reforms forward.<sup>68</sup>

**Holding the Executive Branch Accountable for FOIL**

**Compliance.** As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio has monitored and reported on the city’s compliance with the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). De Blasio’s “Transparency Report Card” helps the public track which agencies have complied with their FOIL obligations—and which have not.



## A Plan For a Government as Great as Our City

Bill de Blasio will bring his commitment to integrity and transparency to City Hall by instituting reforms that will give New Yorkers confidence that we have a government as strong as its people.

**End Discretionary ‘Member Item’ Funding.** The arrest of a sitting city councilman earlier this year over allegations that he planned to abuse his discretionary funding in a bribery scheme brought back painful memories of earlier scandals. At the same time, press reports have recounted allocation decisions used to punish members of the City Council who cross leadership.<sup>69</sup> The system is broken, and, as mayor, Bill de Blasio will use his power in the budget process to demand a ban on the member item system. In fact, Bill de Blasio believes passionately that participatory budgeting and RFP grant programs will actually better serve community groups.

**Expand Participatory Budgeting.** This year, more than 13,000 New Yorkers in eight City Council districts, in four of the five boroughs, directly decided how to allocate nearly \$10 million in local capital funding allocations that had

previously been decided solely by their council member through the non-transparent and all-too-often abused discretionary funding system.<sup>70</sup> New Yorkers worked together to identify local priorities, develop funding proposals, and then voted to decide what projects in their communities would be funded—joining residents of Chicago, Boston and cities around the world that have opened up local grant funding and increased citizen engagement in local communities through participatory budgeting. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will work to replace the broken member item system with a transparent, merit-based small grants process. Moreover, he will work to scale up participatory budgeting in council districts across New York City. Bill de Blasio will also pilot expanding participatory budgeting to broader pools of city grant funding and engage New Yorkers more deeply in setting priorities for their communities.

**Strengthen Penalties For Officials Convicted of Corruption.** Under the New York State Constitution, it is impossible to deny or diminish retirement benefits for current public officials. This means public officials convicted of corruption charges have continued to collect their pensions at taxpayer expense, even while serving jail time. To offset this loophole in the law, Bill de Blasio will work to enact legislation proposed by New York State’s Comptroller DiNapoli,<sup>71</sup> which imposes a mandatory fine upon public officers convicted of felony offenses related to their official duties. Guilty officials would be forced to pay a penalty up to twice the amount they benefited from the committed crime.

**Disclose All Contacts With Lobbyists.** Building on his own practice as Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio will require that city officials in executive agencies publicly disclose meetings with registered lobbyists on a monthly basis. Regardless of whether discussions qualify as “lobbying communications” under the Administrative Code or not, all meetings requested by registered lobbyists would be disclosed along with a brief description of the subject matter covered in the meeting. These disclosures would be publicly available online.

**Strengthening Independent Oversight of the City Council.** While an inspector general’s office exists for executive agencies—with a commissioner who can only be removed for written, publicly filed cause—Bill de Blasio would push for legislation establishing a similar position in the City Council. The position would replace the now defunct Independent Compliance Office in the City Council, a short-lived position which, despite its name, lacked true

independence from the Council leadership. The new independent position would be nominated by the Council and approved by the mayor. To ensure the independence of this position, the office would have a set term of five years, a fixed salary that could not be decreased by the City Council, and would require at least five years of prior law enforcement experience. Staffing levels for the office would be fixed by law and would require agreement by the mayor to reduce. Among its functions, powers and duties, the office would investigate complaints from sources, or upon its own initiative, concerning alleged abuses and fraud.

**Unlocking Public Information With FOIL Reform.** Bill de Blasio will increase transparency with a series of reforms of the Freedom of Information Law. He will include FOIL statistics in the Mayor’s Management Report, mandate routine reports on outstanding FOIL requests to the Public Advocate and City Council, and establish a unified online source to file, process and track all FOIL requests. Bill de Blasio will also levy fines and penalties against city agencies that regularly duck and delay FOIL requests, and he will proactively post online information that is most-frequently sought by FOIL request.

**Reforming Local Elections.** Bill de Blasio will push for a number of reforms to make local elections more democratic and open to the people. This includes allowing same-day voter registration and making voter registration available online. Bill de Blasio also supports efforts that boost voter participation, such as allowing early voting and making election information materials available in multiple languages.

# PROTECTING INCOME AND FOOD SECURITY FOR LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS

Since the current economic crisis hit in 2007, the ranks of the unemployed and those in poverty has increased radically, and the number of individuals using emergency food programs has increased by more than 60 percent.<sup>72</sup> While Bill de Blasio believes a job is the best help we can give to families struggling in poverty, he is also committed to providing income and food security to those who can't work, who can't find work, or those who are pursuing educational opportunities to escape poverty.

Programs meant to help low-income New Yorkers fail to reach too many eligible families, and many other programs need to be expanded to reach families that need help. For example, almost a quarter of those eligible for SNAP food stamp benefits — more than 250,000 families — do not receive them in New York City.<sup>73</sup> That means that the city overall is forgoing \$645 million each year in food support for those families.<sup>74</sup> Since the USDA estimates that every \$1 in new SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.80 of local economic activity,<sup>75</sup> this means that not only do individual families suffer needlessly, but low-income communities lose out on over a billion dollars each year in economic stimulus.



## The De Blasio Record on Income and Food Security For Low-Income New Yorkers



Throughout his career — from his years as chair of the General Welfare Committee in the City Council to his term as Public Advocate — Bill de Blasio has considered providing basic income and food security to all New Yorkers a key responsibility of government. He has worked consistently to expand eligibility for programs and reduce the bureaucratic impediments to access for poor and immigrant households.

**Removing Application Barriers.** As a City Council member, Bill de Blasio passed legislation that removed barriers to food stamp enrollment including allowing application submissions by alternate means, and waiving face-to-face interviews when they presented a hardship for the applicant.

**Providing Language Translation and Assistance.** Bill de Blasio advanced legislation that required the Human Resources Administration to provide language assistance and translation services for non-English speakers when applying for government benefits.

**Ending Applicant Fingerprinting.** As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio demanded the city end the use of fingerprint imaging for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program applicants, which Governor Cuomo has begun implementing.

**Improving Healthy Choices in SNAP.** As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio supported healthy living by supporting a pilot program limiting sugary beverage purchases with SNAP.

**Providing Post-Sandy Help.** Bill de Blasio pushed for extended SNAP benefits following Superstorm Sandy.



## The De Blasio Vision for Income and Food Security For Low-Income New Yorkers

No family should ever be hungry in our city, and Bill de Blasio will work relentlessly to expand enrollment for eligible households to income and food assistance programs, reduce bureaucratic barriers, and advocate for expanded support from the state and federal government.

**Improve Access At Benefit Offices Around City.** The first step is to ensure that people applying for benefits don't face delays when they apply, an often confused and bureaucratic process highlighted by delays during the aftermath of Sandy.<sup>76</sup> Bill de Blasio will streamline applications by working with Albany to simplify the application process for food assistance programs, including a streamlined application for the elderly. We need to take full advantage of state and federal initiatives and waivers — including working for a 36-month recertification period, instead of one year — and we need to expand options that enable individuals to apply for programs simultaneously.

We need to ensure that all staff members have access to fax machines, Xerox machines, the Internet, computers that can accept online applications, and other appropriate technologies. The city's welfare-to-work program needs to emphasize job creation, job training and education, while stopping efforts to divert individuals from accessing cash assistance.

**Coordinate Outreach for All Benefit Programs.** Too many families don't even know they qualify for assistance programs. A USDA-sponsored, survey-based study found over half of eligible non-participant households believed they were ineligible.<sup>77</sup> Bill de Blasio will create a coordinated outreach effort to ensure that every eligible New Yorker receives the food and income security help they qualify for.

The city needs to expand media and public outreach campaigns to increase participation in all income and food

assistance programs. As the city undertakes major outreach to sign up individuals for Medicaid and other Affordable Care Act programs, outreach staff hired for that effort should also be signing qualifying individuals for other assistance programs. Data sharing among all programs needs to be improved to speed approval and identify people who are eligible but not participating in other programs.

**Expand Pilot Projects That Sign Up People Online at Community-Based Organizations.** The Paperless Office System (POS) Project project, which has enrolled 16,000 in SNAP and more than 2,500 people in Medicaid as of April 2012,<sup>78</sup> should expand to additional nonprofit sites, so trusted community-based organizations in every neighborhood and community can help sign up eligible people and households for income, health and nutrition programs.

**Stop Credit Discrimination in Employment.** Bill de Blasio supports legislation that would prevent employers from using credit ratings in hiring decisions, a practice that only makes it harder for the unemployed to find work. After the recession, one of every four Americans had a poor credit rating, with African-Americans and Hispanics more likely to have low scores. Individuals can have a low score through no fault of their own, including crises caused by medical emergencies, identity theft, large student loans, and scams.<sup>79</sup> Using credit scores in job decisions only makes it harder for people facing economic hardship to get a job and get their personal finances back on track—and Bill de Blasio knows it's a needless roadblock to economic opportunity.

**Support Universal School Meals in Schools.** Bill de Blasio will make free school lunch available to all public school children at most city schools by taking advantage of the new Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for low-income school districts.<sup>80</sup> This program would take advantage of the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which the DOE has failed to do.<sup>81</sup> This allows schools to replace the current inefficient, application-based system for school lunches with a paperless data-driven system that allows students to eat free of charge and free of stigma.

**Train Staff to Maximize Benefits in Mixed Documentation Families.** Undocumented parents with citizen children do not seek or are denied benefits at a disproportionate rate. For example, SNAP participation rate for eligible children living with noncitizen adults was estimated at 54 percent, far below the 86 percent participation rate for all eligible children.<sup>82</sup> Along with better outreach to immigrant communities, including through trusted community organizations, the city needs to provide clear and consistent guidance and ongoing training to caseworkers and other benefit office staff regarding federal and state program

policy with respect to immigrant applicants. We need to ensure that a percentage of caseworkers in HRA offices speak the languages of communities they serve and can assist non-literate parents on ways to apply for benefits for their citizen children.

**Work With Albany to Allow Students at Four-Year Colleges to Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).** Bill de Blasio will advocate in Albany to change the senseless rule that a student at a 2-year college can receive TANF, but pursuing a four-year college education is not part of the list of countable educational activities.

**Expand Child Care Slots in the City.** In New York City, the single greatest expense for low-income households with children is child care, surpassing even the cost of housing and food. Bill de Blasio's commitment to providing universal pre-K for every 4-year-old means we will have more child care slots available for younger children. He will work with ACS to articulate a long-term plan for subsidized child care and will hold all parties accountable for fulfilling their roles.

# QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

The economic inequality gripping our city affects more than just a family's paycheck. It also produces deep health disparities.

In neighborhoods where poverty and unemployment are widespread, access to affordable, quality health care is tenuous, while the epidemics of our time — diseases caused by smoking and obesity — take their toll on families. Of the 62 counties in New York State, the Bronx is ranked dead last in health indicators, and Brooklyn fares little better.<sup>83</sup> Parents are forced to forgo preventive check-ups and medication so they can pay their bills instead. More than a million New Yorkers are without health insurance. Hospitals are closing from Jamaica to South Brooklyn and Greenwich Village. All this inequity exists in the same city that boasts the finest doctors and medical institutions in the world.

Yet with the Affordable Care Act taking full effect on the first day the next mayor takes office, New York has the opportunity to remake its health care system to be affordable and accessible to all families. As of 2014, well over \$10 billion per year in new federal dollars will be coming into New York State to expand Medicaid, provide subsidies for middle-income families to buy insurance, and support small businesses in buying insurance for their employees.<sup>84</sup> Federal dollars flowing to New York City's own budget will free up billions of dollars over the next decade to support new initiatives.

New York City needs a renewed commitment to universal coverage and community-based health that delivers quality, affordable care to every family and every neighborhood.

## The De Blasio Record on Protecting Public Health

Throughout his career, Bill de Blasio has fought to keep neighborhood hospitals from closing, expand access to reproductive health care for women, bring nurses and mental health professionals back to our schools, and enact a strong public health agenda that fights diseases stemming from smoking and obesity.

**Fighting to Keep Hospitals Open.** Few events devastate a neighborhood like the loss of a community hospital. Bill de Blasio has stood with neighborhoods in their fight to keep jobs and critical emergency services in the communities that desperately need them, including the push to save Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn.

**Securing Health Coverage for More Workers.** As a City Council member, Bill de Blasio sponsored legislation to help more working families secure publicly-backed health insurance by distributing more information on options at daycare centers. He fought for the Language Access Law that made it easier for non-English speakers to enroll in Medicaid. As Public Advocate, Bill de Blasio was a strong supporter of the Living Wage bill, which required companies receiving city subsidies to provide a decent wage and benefits to employees. He fought to keep the law from being watered down, and he has pledged to close carve-outs. Bill de Blasio led the fight for true paid sick leave for every New Yorker, and he forced the issue to the floor of the City Council after three years of resistance.

**Working for Healthier Schools.** Bill de Blasio sponsored legislation requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to make nurses available in all elementary and middle schools. De Blasio has led the charge to expand access to counseling and mental health resources on school grounds. Fewer than one in five public schools has a mental health professional on site. And when City Hall tried to paper over the thousands of students being sent to the emergency room because their school couldn't manage behavioral issues, de Blasio fought alongside parents for answers. He took the city to court to secure the documents proving kids had been underserved.



**Averting a Post-Sandy Health Crisis.** In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, thousands of seniors and vulnerable New Yorkers were left stranded in high-rises and coastal communities. Hospitals, doctors' offices and pharmacies were shuttered. Bill de Blasio saw the health crisis coming and pushed in those early weeks for a concerted door-to-door canvassing to bring health care to those who needed it. De Blasio worked to get the Visiting Nurse Service into Red Hook Houses to treat ailing seniors. And in the months that followed, de Blasio fought for a comprehensive response to the spread of asthma-inducing mold, pressuring the city to launch its first-ever mold remediation program.

**Fighting the Biggest Causes of Disease.** Bill de Blasio has never shied away from opposing Mayor Bloomberg when he's wrong—but he has been one of the most steadfast supporters of the Bloomberg Administration's public health agenda. Obesity and smoking remain two of New York City's biggest killers—which is why de Blasio has been a strong supporter of reforms like banning smoking in restaurants and bars, and the policy's expansion to parks and public spaces. De Blasio has also backed mandates to post calorie counts to inform consumers and ban harmful trans-fats. These policies have not always been popular, but they have collectively saved thousands of lives.



## The De Blasio Vision For Affordable Health Care in Every Community

No neighborhood should ever face the total loss of the doctors, nurses and services of a community hospital. No New Yorker should ever go without life-saving screenings and preventative health care that can help them live longer, healthier lives. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will pursue an ambitious public health agenda that builds on New York's status as an innovator and increases accessibility for every family.

### **Take Advantage of the Affordable Care Act to Expand**

**Coverage.** While an estimated 500,000 additional New York City residents will gain coverage under the Affordable Care Act, nearly a million more will still lack coverage.<sup>85</sup> However, since 67 percent of those uninsured are projected to be eligible for but not enrolled in ACA programs,<sup>86</sup> a full-scale campaign mobilizing all city agencies and supporting community-based organizations to do outreach will not only increase coverage for New Yorkers, but increase federal dollars flowing to the city that can help free up resources for other health care initiatives for the remaining uninsured.

The city's health department has created a detailed outline of ways to coordinate existing resources like ACCESS NYC, NYC Business Express, and other city resources with grants to community-based organizations — especially those in immigrant communities — to create a comprehensive “navigator” program that will supplement state efforts to enroll the uninsured.<sup>87</sup> Bill de Blasio will commit every financial and human resource needed — which will be repaid through the new federal dollars flowing to the city — to enroll 600,000 more New Yorkers in ACA-covered health insurance programs by 2018.

**Protect Community Hospitals.** The loss of a single hospital can hollow out health care for an entire community. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will help older hospitals that form the safety net in the outer boroughs to thrive again. Instead of gambling on costly outside consultants to turn troubled institutions around, de Blasio will work to partner financially-strained institutions with flagship hospitals here in the city that can help pool resources, share best practices, and improve quality of care. In Albany, de Blasio will champion for community safety-net hospitals by fighting for fair funding, protecting institutions from speculators, and reducing waste that threatens hospitals' thin margins.

The city's public hospitals administered by the Health and Hospitals Corporation must also be protected. HHC remains the primary source of health care for the uninsured—and even after the Affordable Care Act is in full effect, HHC will remain critical to serving communities across the city, including more than half a million undocumented persons. De Blasio will also resist any efforts to downsize this vital health network.

### **Expand Capacity Of and Access to Community Health Centers.**

Expanding community health centers is a cornerstone of federal and state health reform goals, since they provide an integrated approach to care for patients regardless of their documentation status or ability to pay. Building on new funds for community health centers provided in the ACA, Bill de Blasio will create at least 16 new community health clinics in the communities of highest need — identified by the New York State Health Foundation<sup>88</sup> — and increase the efficiency and capacity of existing clinics by improving productivity, filling staff vacancies, and keeping them open longer hours. City health centers should be serving 500,000 additional patients by 2018.

### **Fill the Nursing Shortage With Health Care Workers Trained Here in New York City.**

Health care is one of the fastest-growing parts of our economy, and the expansion of coverage in coming years will just increase the need for health care workers. While there are tremendous opportunities for those with the right skills, right now New York hospitals and health facilities need to recruit abroad to fill 16,000 nursing positions, because too few New Yorkers have the necessary skills. By investing in training programs in our high schools and at the City University of New York, Bill de Blasio will ensure New York City graduates have the skills needed to fill health care positions created in coming years and deliver care to those who need it.

### **Expand Primary Health Care Clinics at or Adjacent to Worksites to Serve City Employees.**

Health care costs for the city's 300,000 municipal workers, their families, and 200,000 retirees are expected to hit \$8.3 billion by 2018. To help bring those costs down, Bill de Blasio will work through the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation

(HHC)—which already delivers services to more than a million New Yorkers—to create or contract 20 new primary health care clinics to serve city employees at or close to their workplaces. These convenient clinics would encourage preventative care and take advantage of HHC's scale to provide services at a lower cost. The city can incentivize workers to use the clinics by waiving co-pays and providing flexible scheduling to use them. This would improve access and the quality of care for the city's workforce. The city could save \$750 million to \$2 billion through long-term savings by investing just 2 percent of current health care spending in these clinics over four years.



### **Expand Affordable Housing Support For Patients**

**With High-Cost Health Needs.** One major factor driving up health care costs is that patients with chronic illnesses are often homeless or are precariously housed, leading to inconsistent treatment and higher medical costs. Studies reviewed by the New York State Medicaid Resign Team found that providing supportive housing to chronically ill and disabled homeless patients cut Medicaid treatment costs by thousands of dollars.<sup>89</sup> As mayor, Bill de Blasio will support efforts to fulfill the NY-NY III agreement and invest Medicaid savings in supportive housing development and services. He will also work to create a broader successor agreement that increases the supply of supportive housing for homeless people, including persons living with disabilities, persons living with mental illness, families, unaccompanied youth, young adults, veterans, seniors, survivors of domestic violence, and people exiting correctional facilities.

**Support Nursing Home Transition.** Bill de Blasio supports New York's Nursing Home Transition and Diversion program because he believes that it is important to provide seniors and those with disabilities the ability to stay in their own homes, but to do so while maintaining access to vital services.

### **Ban Use of Condoms as Evidence in Prostitution**

**Cases.** Police confiscation of condoms as evidence in prostitution cases creates disincentives for prostitutes to use or even carry prophylactics. This jeopardizes public health by making the spread of sexually transmitted diseases more likely. Bill de Blasio supports state legislation that would prevent prosecutors from using condom possession as proof in court in prostitution cases.

### **Make Our Schools Centers of Healthy Lifestyles and Supportive Services.**

As a public school parent, Bill de Blasio values the role our schools can play in helping our children live healthier lives. By funding the biggest expansion of after-school programs in the city's history, de Blasio will revive athletic programs that have been decimated by years of cuts. He will bring gym classes back to schools that have lost them. To better serve many students with special needs, Bill will accelerate the adoption of "community school models" that partner schools with community-based organizations to provide mental health services on campus. As mayor, de Blasio will end the wasteful and damaging practice of needlessly sending children to the emergency room for mental health issues that should be attended to within a school setting.

### **Protect HHC's Ability to Serve Undocumented Immigrants.**

Federal health care reform excludes undocumented immigrants, who will then come to depend even more on the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation for health care. As health care reform is implemented, Bill de Blasio will designate high-ranking officials at HHC and the city's health department to protect immigrant families' access to health care.



## A FRAMEWORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE CITY

Climate change, a fast-changing economy, and new pressures to preserve our environment combine to make urban sustainability an urgent priority.

At the same time, sustainability offers tremendous opportunities to improve public health and our environment, deliver real savings and efficiency for taxpayers, and open new doors to good-paying jobs particularly for low-income New Yorkers.

New York City is uniquely positioned to become the most sustainable big city in the world. With significant public infrastructure and a robust mass transit system, dense living patterns, and capacity for civic innovation, Bill de Blasio recognizes this is a transformational moment for our city.



## The De Blasio Record on Sustainability and the Environment

Bill de Blasio is a committed protector of the environment and a strong advocate for urban sustainability. Throughout his public service life, he has pushed forward a far-thinking sustainability agenda and championed legislation that would mitigate negative environmental impacts. These initiatives have helped preserve our environment while increasing city efficiency.

**Promoting Green Buildings.** One of the best ways to bolster sustainability is to use green standards in the renovation and construction of buildings. As a City Council member, Bill de Blasio co-sponsored legislation to offer incentives to implement green building standards. He also supported mandates for all city construction and repairs to ensure they earn at least a LEED Silver certification.

**Improving Air Quality.** Bill de Blasio has worked to reduce toxic emissions and improve air quality. He has pushed the New York State Legislature to implement the same motor vehicle emissions standards used by California, and introduced legislation to crack down on emissions from idling vehicles and sanitation trucks.

**Reducing the Negative Impact of E-Waste.** The rapid rise of technology has produced a proliferation of e-waste – faulty or outdated computers, phones, monitors and other similar electronic products. Often, these devices contain toxins, lead or chemicals that pose serious health and environmental risks. Bill de Blasio led the fight in creating a comprehensive e-waste management plan for New York City. As a result of his efforts, manufacturers and waste handlers are now required to comply with strict standards for collection and recovery of harmful e-waste.

**Harnessing the Power of the Purse to Promote Energy Efficiency.** The City of New York has enormous leverage through its purchasing power to promote the use of green products and increase energy efficiency. As a City Council member, Bill de Blasio pushed the city to change its purchasing to ensure New York's power of the purse obtained economies of scale.

**Ending Government Use of Styrofoam.** Landfilling garbage incurs high costs and does tremendous damage to our environment, and Styrofoam is one of the most dangerous contributors because of how long it takes to biodegrade. Bill de Blasio initiated the SPARE pledge — Stop Polystyrene and Revitalize the Environment — to ban government use of Styrofoam, and he backed separate legislation to end Department of Education use of Styrofoam in food packaging.

**Creating a Culture of Recycling in Our Schools.** Recycling should be a way of life for all New Yorkers, and Bill de Blasio knows the best way to nurture that culture is by teaching our children to be good environmental stewards. That's why he has pushed for better waste management and recycling in New York City schools.

## A Vision For a Sustainable New York City

New York City has been a leader in green initiatives to save energy, protect the environment, and build green jobs for our economy. Bill de Blasio intends to build on that history and expand sustainability initiatives throughout the five boroughs.

**Build an Alliance for a Sustainable New York.** New York City has all of the critical components in place to become the most sustainable city in the world: dense public-sector resources and infrastructure, private capital, innovators in science and technology, strong labor unions, and a committed citizenry. We can and must build on the successes of PlaNYC and convene all stakeholders to build the most sustainable city in the world. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will convene public and private sector actors to expand and deepen PlaNYC, and he will update the plan every year on Earth Day.

**Commit to Renewable Energy.** The green collar economy begins with a clear commitment to alternative energy sources. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will expand the city's investment in large-scale clean energy production, including wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower and biofuels. Not only would such a transition reduce New York City's carbon footprint, it would expand economic opportunities — from entrepreneurs to production and installation jobs.<sup>90</sup> Bill de Blasio will also advocate at the state level for the New York Solar Act, which will provide additional incentives to support the adoption of solar energy production.

**Retrofit and Green New York City Buildings.** Bill de Blasio will make every government-owned building as green as is financially viable by 2020.<sup>91</sup> For the private sector, Bill de Blasio will continue the commitment to the New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation. He will also replicate Chicago's public-private partnership model to create more funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.<sup>92</sup> This includes direct loans for energy efficiency in buildings and "Energy Services Agreements (ESA)," where energy efficiency work is packaged as a service that building owners pay for through savings with limited upfront cost to the owner.<sup>93</sup>

**Help Every Business Reduce its Energy Use.** At economic development hubs around the city, Bill de Blasio will have city workers provide technical assistance to local business owners with an emphasis on greater efficiency. This technical support will provide information on ways to increase energy efficiency in their buildings and better manage waste, which will help reduce transit and logistic energy costs while improving industrial processes. The city will also help small businesses identify the government and private resources that can help them green their businesses and use the energy savings to grow their businesses.

**Set a Goal of Zero Waste in New York.** New York City is behind in recycling and reducing waste, at great cost to the budget and the environment. The city spent \$320 million in 2011 on disposal, while sanitation trucks drove 40 million miles, spewing huge amounts of greenhouse gases.<sup>94</sup> The cost of Zero Waste may sound unattainable, but it is actually a practical program and goal. Since adopting Zero Waste, San Francisco recycles 80 percent, compared to 15 percent in New York City.<sup>95</sup> Seattle and Oakland and states like Minnesota, Oregon and California are striving for Zero Waste. Companies like Xerox, Sony and Hewlett-Packard are finding that adhering to Zero Waste principles results in significant cost savings. Bill de Blasio will institute a Zero Waste program: strengthening and expanding existing recycling, instituting composting programs, and establishing waste reduction programs, including, for example, bans on plastic bags and requiring more materials to be recyclable or compostable. Instead of a focus on disposing and exporting waste, Bill de Blasio will look for opportunities for economic development, building industries, and creating jobs from materials that can be recovered.



### **Integrate Green Skills into Workforce Development.**

Training on ways to reduce energy costs effectively should be integrated into industry sector workforce development in all schools, apprenticeships and training programs. Bill de Blasio will model its green workforce initiatives on the Green Professional Building Skills Training model, which brings together labor unions, government officials, business leaders, environmentalists and CUNY educators to train workers and credential them for career advancement in green building management.<sup>96</sup>

**Focus on Resilience and Preparedness.** With many neighborhoods across our city still reeling from the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy, and with severe weather on the rise, Bill de Blasio will invest in infrastructure upgrades that improve our resilience and ability to respond to an emergency. Permeable surfaces and natural infrastructure, for example, do more than help keep our waterways clean

— they protect our homes and neighborhoods from natural disasters, increase home values, and create new construction jobs. He will also implement many of the recommendations made by the Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Recovery,<sup>97</sup> including safeguarding utilities and hospitals, and improving protective infrastructure with assets like surge barriers and sand dunes.

### **Restoring Our Waterways and Investing in Soft Infrastructure.**

By restoring our coastal ecosystems — such as our wetlands, dunes, and rivers — New York City can renew our long-neglected waterways while making important strides in protecting against future storm surges. In the same way that the High Line has been transformed from an urban blight to a rich community space, New York City can renew our waterways — such as the Gowanus Canal, Newtown Creek, and Jamaica Bay — to improve our water ecosystems and expand locations for urban ecotourism. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will work to restore our waterways and will implement a five-borough bioswales initiative to minimize the pressure on our water and sewer system.

**Expand Municipal Composting Citywide.** Composting is environmentally progressive, helps reduce waste streams, and mitigates harmful byproducts from decomposition. It also means less money spent on carting and fertilizer. The city has conducted successful pilot programs, and recently called for a major expansion. Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Boulder, Colorado all have curbside composting pickup programs.<sup>98</sup> As mayor, Bill de Blasio will expand the city's program and create a mandatory city-wide municipal composting system within five years.

**Promote Transit-Oriented Development.** As mayor, Bill de Blasio will target rezonings and development of additional housing to locations with strong transit connections, encouraging higher-density development at and around transit hubs, while preserving lower density neighborhoods located further from mass transit.

### **Support Comprehensive Solid Waste Management**

**Plan.** For many years, New York City's trash was disproportionately shipped to poor communities in the outer boroughs. Bill de Blasio understands we need a fair, five-borough plan to handle New York's garbage. De Blasio will implement the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, including opening the 91st Street Marine Transfer Station.

**Establish Gateless Tolling.** Even with EZ Pass, tollbooths still mean congestion and delay for thousands of drivers every day. The MTA has successfully experimented with gateless tolls on the Henry Hudson Bridge, proving that new technology can allow us to remove tollbooths and let motorists make toll crossings without reducing speed, saving time and reducing congestion. Bill de Blasio will work with the MTA to introduce gateless tolling on existing toll bridges that are notoriously traffic-choked, like the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

**Support Smart Grid and Smart Meter Deployment.** To cut electricity consumption and reduce power outages, Bill de Blasio knows we need a long-term vision to upgrade the grid that delivers electricity to New York City homes. This means developing a comprehensive strategy to deploy smart meters that allow consumers to better manage consumption, and enable utilities to better manage peak energy loads. Bill de Blasio will work with Albany to establish real-time pricing options for electricity to decrease energy

consumption and energy bills for participating New Yorkers. He will also support increasing the size of solar and alternative energy installations that can use net metering, which allows homes and businesses to feed energy that hasn't been used back into the grid.

**Uphold Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing.** In 2009, Bill de Blasio sponsored the resolution calling on federal and state agencies to assess the risks posed by hydrofracking to drinking water, and to apply appropriate regulations. He supports the two-year fracking moratorium recently passed by the Assembly, and hopes the Senate will also approve the measure. Questions about health and environmental safety remain unanswered, and we can't afford to get this wrong.





# LGBT EQUALITY FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

The fight for equality did not end with New York's passage of the Marriage Equality Act. Protecting the gains made by the LGBT community and stamping out prejudice are constant battles — and Bill de Blasio will remain a close ally of the LGBT community throughout the fight. From preventing hate crimes and bullying, to expanding supportive services for People with HIV/AIDS, to winning full legal protection for transgender New Yorkers, Bill de Blasio is committed to full equality for every LGBT New Yorker.



## The De Blasio Record on LGBT Equality

Bill de Blasio's support for the LGBT community stretches back more than 20 years from his time serving in the Dinkins Administration, where he worked on establishing the domestic partners registry. In the years since, de Blasio has built a powerful legislative record advocating for LGBT New Yorkers, which includes extending benefits to same-sex partners, outlawing discrimination of transgender New Yorkers, improving housing services for people with HIV/AIDS, and personally lobbying state legislators in support of marriage equality.



**Support for People with HIV/AIDS.** People with HIV/AIDS who lose their homes and enter the city's shelter system can see their medical condition deteriorate rapidly. As chair of the City Council's General Welfare committee, Bill de Blasio authored and passed legislation cutting red tape and expediting applications for medically supportive housing for New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS. And when the Bloomberg Administration proposed cuts to vital HIV prevention programs, even as infection rates rose, Bill de Blasio fought to keep those programs fully funded.

**Ending Discrimination and Recognizing All Relationships.** While on the City Council, Bill de Blasio co-spon-

sored the Gender Based Discrimination Protection law—one of the first laws in the nation to prevent discrimination against transgender New Yorkers.<sup>99</sup> He also co-sponsored the Domestic Partnership Recognition law, an important precursor to full marriage equality that required New York City to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

**Expanding Health Care Access to LGBT Youth.** In 2009, Bill de Blasio authored legislation to establish a division within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to specifically address the issues faced by LGBT youth in New York City, including an increased likelihood of homelessness.

## A Commitment: Equality for All New Yorkers

Bill de Blasio is a fighter for full equality for every New Yorker. Those beliefs are rooted in his progressive values, in his personal connection to LGBT friends and family, and in his deep respect for the gay rights movement and its contributions to this country. As mayor, de Blasio will maintain New York City's voice on the national stage as a promoter of marriage equality. But he will also focus on the underserved and at-risk members of the LGBT community who continue to face violence, discrimination and economic insecurity.

### **Increase Support for Homeless LGBT Youth Services.**

LGBT youth face a much higher risk of homelessness than their heterosexual peers, and those numbers are borne out in our City's shelter system—which can be especially unwelcoming and dangerous to LGBT youth. Year after year, the Bloomberg Administration has threatened cuts that disrupt those vital services and jeopardize frontline outreach to homeless LGBT youth. Bill de Blasio will baseline their funding and work to expand street outreach teams and supportive housing that meets the specific needs of LGBT young people.

**Broaden Access to Housing for LGBT Seniors.** LGBT seniors often face discrimination at senior residences and nursing homes that can lead to harassment and force them back in the closet. Bill de Blasio will bring the Department for the Aging and community-based organizations together to increase LGBT-specific housing and care options that treat LGBT seniors with dignity and respect.

### **End Discrimination Against LGBT Bi-National Families.**

Same-sex couples face the dual sting of the federal government's failure to enact immigration reform and its continued discrimination of LGBT partners. Bill de Blasio believes that comprehensive immigration reform must by definition include equal recognition for LGBT families. As Public Advocate, de Blasio has pushed for LGBT inclusion in congressional legislation. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will continue the fight for federal reform and will ensure all city agencies are extending full recognition and benefits to same-sex couples regardless of immigration status.

### **Expand Health Insurance Coverage in the LGBT Community.**

Members of the LGBT community are nearly 50 percent less likely than the general population to have health insurance, which has devastating health consequences. The national expansion of health insurance is a tremendous opportunity to correct that inequity. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will lead an aggressive campaign to enroll LGBT New Yorkers in public and affordable private insurance plans that meet their needs.



## STANDING WITH THE WOMEN OF NEW YORK CITY

Even in 2013 in New York, we have not realized true equality for women. Pay discrimination hurts families and deepens economic inequality, with employers paying women only 85 cents on every dollar earned by men.<sup>100</sup> From fixing pay inequity to better caring for victims of domestic violence, to fighting for paid sick leave that includes all working women, to ensuring our daughters are given every educational opportunity, Bill de Blasio believes in changing the status quo to ensure true equality for every New Yorker.

Fixing pay inequity is part of a bigger agenda needed to ensure true economic and social equality for every woman in New York City. Domestic violence persists. Our schools aren't sufficiently preparing the next generation of women in key STEM fields. And we continue to fall short.

It's a status quo New York City cannot afford, and it's one Bill de Blasio will continue to fight to change.



## The De Blasio Record on Women's Issues

Since his time as head of the General Welfare Committee of the New York City Council, Bill de Blasio has focused on issues that matter to all New Yorkers, but especially women.

### **Fighting for Paid Sick Leave for Every New Yorker.**

Half of all families in New York City are single-parent households. And for hundreds of thousands of workers, staying home because of an illness or to care for a sick child means the loss of a day's pay—or even the loss of a job. Bill de Blasio led the fight for comprehensive paid sick leave legislation, helping force a vote on the Council floor after years of obstruction by Speaker Quinn.

**Ensuring Access to Housing for Victims of Abuse.** As a City Council member, Bill de Blasio authored and passed legislation eliminating the arcane practice of forcing domestic violence victims to present documentary proof of abuse to be admitted to an emergency domestic violence shelter. As chair of the General Welfare Committee, Bill de Blasio was also instrumental in passing legislation requiring employers to take reasonable precautions to protect and accommodate victims of domestic violence and stalking.

**Demanding the Proper Enforcement of Protective Orders.** When red tape and inaction left Orders of Protection unenforced, incidents came to light that demonstrated inadequate application of protective orders in cases of domestic violence. Bill de Blasio led a coalition of elected officials demanding reform of the system to ensure that it protects victims more fully.

**Standing Up for Reproductive Health.** When Planned Parenthood came under attack from Republicans in Congress, Bill de Blasio fought to protect the vital organization's funding and reputation. He joined with allies across the country to condemn the right wing's smear tactics. As a City Council member, Bill de Blasio co-sponsored landmark legislation to establish protective zones around reproductive health centers, and prevent harassment of women using their services.

**Preventing Sexual Assault.** After a string of sexual assaults on the streets of Brooklyn left communities shaken, Bill de Blasio reached out to dozens of organizations and elected officials to develop and distribute thousands of comprehensive guides on preventing attacks. Street teams mobilized by the Public Advocate expanded the effort across the city. Bill de Blasio has aggressively lobbied for new legislation in Albany to designate "subway grinding" a felony punishable by jail time.



## The De Blasio Plan to Ensure Equality for Women

Being raised for most of his childhood by a single mom has made Bill de Blasio a fervent advocate for women's equality. As a progressive, he believes that the measure of our society is the fairness with which every person is treated, regardless of sex, gender or sexual orientation. He is a strong supporter of Governor Cuomo's Women's Equality Act, and he will fight to leverage every power of city government—legislation, purchasing power, the bully pulpit—to stamp out discrimination and promote a more equal city for all women.



**More Family-Friendly Workplaces.** As mayor, Bill de Blasio will convene city agencies to set higher standards for family-friendly work environments. The task force will focus specifically on the needs of parents with young children, including increasing telecommuting opportunities and expanding designated spaces for breastfeeding at work. Bill de Blasio will also lobby in Albany to pass legislation extending Family Leave Insurance for employees to care for a new child or seriously ill family member.

**End Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace.** Bill de Blasio will take immediate steps to help ensure equal pay for equal work in New York City. He will settle a longstanding lawsuit by female school security guards, who earn \$7,000 less per year than their male colleagues. He will direct all city agencies to rigorously vet all vendors and contractors with whom the city does business to ensure the highest labor standards and hold responsible firms found to violate National Labor Relations Board rules that protect women from discrimination.

**Protect the Right to Choose.** As mayor, Bill de Blasio will work to ensure that all women in New York City have access to quality reproductive health care. De Blasio will work with providers to ensure adequate protection for clinic access by ensuring close coordination with the NYPD, clinics and clinic access volunteers. In addition, he will continue New York City's appeal of a judge's order overturning New York's local law to regulate sham crisis pregnancy centers, and if the law is ultimately struck down, he will work to craft new regulations to prevent these centers from masquerading as legitimate healthcare providers. Furthermore, Bill de Blasio will work with non-profit providers to identify neighborhoods underserved by reproductive health services and work with them to identify space in city sponsored development. De Blasio will also continue the Bloomberg administration's groundbreaking abortion training initiative for medical residents at all HHC hospitals. And Bill de Blasio will work to increase access to the state Family Planning Benefits Program as the city works to support implementation of the Affordable Care act.

**Equal Educational and Economic Opportunity.** Women in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) career fields can earn a third more in salary than their peers, and yet women continue to be underrepresented in these growing, in-demand fields. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will work through our schools to create more electives in STEM programs and integrated after-school programming directed to girls and young women. He will implement a Career and Technical Education recruitment and retention campaign, with meaningful enrollment benchmarks, to ensure gender equity in CTE programs that prepare young people for high-wage and high-skill jobs in traditionally male-dominated occupations.

**Support Women and Minority-Owned Businesses.**

Minority and women-owned businesses constitute only 3 percent of New York City's government's spending. New York State manages 10 percent and has a goal of doubling that share. Bill de Blasio believes in the importance of unlocking the entrepreneurial potential of women and minority-owned business, and realizes that because of New York City's inherent diversity, purchasing from MWBE's invariably increases the amount of city dollars spent right here in the five boroughs. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will direct Small Business Services to dramatically increase the number of officially registered MWBE firms eligible for city contracts, and will empower a Deputy Mayor with the responsibility of increasing diversity in city contracts and procurement.

**End Street Harassment and 'Subway Grinding.'** As mayor, Bill de Blasio will continue to aggressively push to make 'subway grinding' a felony punishable by jail time. Bill de Blasio will also further his efforts to prevent sexual assault by launching a wide-scale Public Services Announcement campaign that expands awareness and empowers bystanders to confront harassment when they see it, be it on the streets or in the subways.

**Protect Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence.** In 2012, there were more than 260,000 incidents of domestic violence in New York City.<sup>101</sup> For undocumented immigrants, being a victim of domestic violence carries extra risk, because it can bring them into contact with immigration authorities. City agencies have the legal capacity to help immigrant domestic violence victims receive the certification they need to secure a special U-visa under the Violence Against Women Act. However, there are serious problems with inefficiency and coordination among city agencies and officials. Bill de Blasio will pass legislation that requires each agency with the power to offer U-visa certification to create a U-Visa coordinator. This will cut through red tape and better support immigrant domestic violence victims.

**Ease Access to Housing for Women and Their Families.**

Whether it is victims of domestic violence, or single mothers seeking access to affordable housing, Bill de Blasio is committed to providing the women of New York with safe places to call home. This is why Bill de Blasio has fought for funding of women and family-only shelters, and for a "housing first" approach that seeks to move women and their children from the shelter system into affordable housing as quickly as possible.

**Diversify our Police and Fire Departments.** The fact that our police and fire departments still don't truly reflect the demographics of our city is unacceptable. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will commit to a process that would allow these institutions to reflect the true breadth of New York's finest and bravest citizens.

**End Human Trafficking in New York City.** As mayor, Bill de Blasio will seek to end the prevalence of human trafficking coming through our city. By coordinating with federal, state, regional, and local law enforcement officials — as well as raising awareness throughout all of New York's diverse communities about the realities of human trafficking — de Blasio will curb the outrageous presence of contemporary slavery in our city.



# PROTECTING NEW YORK'S SENIORS

The well-being of New York City's senior population is a critical challenge facing the future of our city. The current population of New Yorkers over 65, which stands at approximately one million today, is expected to rise to nearly two million by the year 2040.<sup>102</sup> New York's senior population faces challenges relatable to seniors across our country. These challenges often stem from the reality of living on fixed incomes. In the absence of federal social security benefits, over 42 percent of New York States' seniors would live below the poverty line. Thanks to this needed program, only 11 percent do.<sup>103</sup> In New York City the numbers are worse, with 22 percent (220,000+) of seniors living at or below the federal poverty line, even with social security.<sup>104</sup>

These numbers do not tell the whole story. Roughly 300,000 of New York's seniors live under 150 percent of the federal poverty line, and more than 400,000 under 200 percent of it.<sup>105</sup> The inherent challenges of living on a fixed income are compounded by New York's sky-high cost of living. These realities challenge every aspect of New York seniors' existences. From housing to health care, from getting enough to eat to accessing needed services.

Bill de Blasio is more than aware of these challenges and, as a City Council member and as Public Advocate, he has made sure that his broader fight against inequity has focused on the vital role of New York's eldest generation.





## The De Blasio Record on Senior Citizens

Bill de Blasio fights for seniors because he believes that they deserve not just respect, but also the care and support of the community at large. Bill de Blasio has helped accomplish this through diligent advocacy for affordable senior housing, access to health care, services that improve senior mobility, and funding of the centers that so many of New York's seniors depend on for their vital needs.

**Supporting Affordable Housing for Seniors.** Bill de Blasio has been a strong advocate for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) that has provided low-income senior citizens much needed protection against rental rate increases. This is a program that freezes rent for seniors in rent-regulated buildings while the City pays landlords the difference.

**Supporting Nursing Home Transition.** Bill de Blasio supports New York's Nursing Home Transition and Diversion program because he believes that it is important to provide seniors and those with disabilities the ability to stay in their own homes, but to do so while having access to vital services.

**Protecting Seniors from Predatory Landlords.** When notorious slumlord David Bistricher falsely accused elderly tenants of Flatbush Gardens of "partying like frat-boys" in an effort to wrongfully evict them from their apartments, Bill de Blasio fought to restrict Bistricher's access to lucrative city contracts.

**Keeping Senior Centers Open and Recreation Centers Affordable.** When budget cuts in Albany led to an announcement that as many as 50 senior centers in New York could be closed, Bill de Blasio demanded an alternative to balancing the budget on the backs of seniors. In addition, Bill de Blasio has been a vocal critic of fee hikes at community recreation centers utilized by so many of New York's seniors.



## The De Blasio Plan to Protect our Seniors

Bill de Blasio understands that as the senior population of New York City grows over the coming decades, and as the cost of living in our city continues to rise, aggressive steps need to be taken to ensure that New York's eldest are protected.



**Protecting Senior Housing.** Bill de Blasio has been a consistent advocate for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), and has pushed for adoption of three separate bills in the New York state legislature that would help provide access to the full range of communities that can utilize the program. As mayor, he would improve outreach to elderly residents through a variety of channels, including more effective outreach to non-English speakers, and by partnering with community organizations to assist in the application.

**Keeping Senior Centers Open.** Senior centers are valuable institutions in all of New York's communities. They are places where people come together for a game of cards, a cup of coffee, and sometimes, for vital information

on federal benefits, access to health and dental care, and invaluable civic information and involvement. Sadly, senior centers have found their funding on the chopping block in numerous instances over the past several years. Bill de Blasio believes that senior centers are anchors for those that depend on them, and that everything possible should be done to limit unnecessary closings.

**Support Companion Animals for Seniors.** Pets have a very positive impact on seniors' lives and they are a cost effective way to enhance their health outcomes. No person 62 years of age or older should be denied occupancy in an apartment building, nor should any tenant be evicted from an apartment, on the sole ground that he or she owns or keeps a common household pet or pets.

# A HUMANE CITY FOR NEW YORK CITY'S ANIMALS

Bill de Blasio believes we can do more to ensure New York City's animals receive humane treatment.



## Bill de Blasio's Vision For a More Humane City

### **Replace Carriage Horses with Vintage Tourist-Friendly Vehicles in Parks.**

Bill de Blasio will end the inhumane treatment of carriage horses and supports an immediate ban on abuse of carriage horses. We can provide a humane retirement of all New York City carriage horses to sanctuaries, and replace them with electric, vintage-replica tourist-friendly vehicles that provide jobs for current drivers.

### **Bring More Shelter Animals Into People's Homes.**

Bill de Blasio supports tougher regulation of law that bans the sale of animals produced in cruel and inhumane puppy mills. With so many animals without homes, we need to promote placement of shelter animals. Bill de Blasio also supports state legislation that will give local governments the authority to more effectively regulate pet dealers.

**Improve Animal Care and Control of AC&C.** AC&C, the organization that runs the NYC shelter system under contract with the city, has not been effectively achieving its mission of rescuing, caring for and finding loving homes for the city's homeless and abandoned animals. Following recommendations outlined in Borough President Scott Stringer's 2013 report on Animal Care and Control, Bill de Blasio will restructure the organization as an independent non-profit with policy controlled by the city but including a dedicated board of directors with committed stakeholders that can effectively raise new revenue.





## REBUILDING A STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT CITY AFTER SANDY

Last fall, 43 New Yorkers lost their lives, tens of thousands were injured and displaced by Hurricane Sandy, and communities across the five boroughs were devastated by flooding and fires from the worst coastal storm in New York City history. In the face of incredible hardship, New Yorkers, especially our first responders, showed extraordinary courage, generosity and determination.

Unfortunately, Sandy warns of escalating dangers to come, as predictions indicate that climate change and rising sea levels will leave 800,000 New Yorkers living in flood hazard zones by the 2050s. Our City faces increasing risk of destructive climate events, including events five times the economic and personal destruction wrecked by Sandy according to projections outlined in Mayor Bloomberg's resiliency report.

As the recovery process continues and New Yorkers get back on their feet, we have a responsibility to not only rebuild communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy, but also to reinforce our infrastructure, mitigate the potential impact of future disasters, and help lead the nation in changing local and national practices driving the climate change that threatens our planet and the very existence of our City.

## The De Blasio Record in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy

When Hurricane Sandy hit New York City last fall, Bill de Blasio quickly mobilized the Public Advocate's office to provide on-the-ground assistance to communities devastated by the storm. De Blasio was tireless in working to assist and protect vulnerable New Yorkers who were stranded without heat and hot water, encouraged comprehensive solutions for mold remediation, and sought expanded health protections for at-risk New Yorkers.

**Connecting communities to disaster assistance.** In the days and weeks immediately following Hurricane Sandy, the Public Advocate's office served as a go-to hub for New Yorkers struggling to navigate City, State, and Federal disaster assistance. Bill de Blasio conducted community forums, led door-to-door outreach, produced a series of how-to guides, and established a Hurricane Sandy hotline to expedite assistance for homeowners and small businesses impacted by the storm.

**Mobilizing volunteers.** As New York City transitioned from emergency response to rebuilding, Bill de Blasio led one of the city's largest volunteer efforts through the Public Advocate's Office, recruiting more than 5,000 volunteers to help with clean-up and outreach efforts across the five boroughs.

**Advocating for the most vulnerable New Yorkers.** Following large-scale power outages, Bill de Blasio demanded door-to-door outreach to reach all NYCHA residents stranded without electricity, heat, and hot water. To fight the spread of mold in thousands of homes and businesses inundated by Hurricane Sandy, de Blasio outlined a comprehensive plan to leverage City, State and Federal resources. Bill de Blasio also joined the New York State Nurses Association to urge the City to dramatically expand free flu shot distribution in areas hit hard by Hurricane Sandy.

**Helping small businesses recover.** In partnership with more than a dozen business groups, Chambers of Commerce and local elected officials, Bill de Blasio launched a door-to-door campaign to help small businesses following Hurricane Sandy. The initiative, called "Bounce Back NYC," sent volunteers to business districts in the hardest-hit neighborhoods to catalog and promote businesses that have reopened, provide onsite support, and help drive shoppers to these stores, restaurants and retail outlets.



## The De Blasio Vision for Rebuilding & Preparing for the Future

Effectively managing the impacts of climate change is one of the most urgent and pressing tasks facing this city. The next mayor will have three major challenges in the wake of Sandy: overseeing a transparent and effective rebuilding process to repair storm damage; improving the City's disaster response experience for future storms; and strengthening the City's long-term resilience to storm surges and extreme weather in the face of global climate change. Mayor Bloomberg is to be commended for his comprehensive plan for rebuilding a more resilient NYC. Bill de Blasio intends to make those plans a reality through a process that includes every neighborhood in planning a more resilient future that makes our City an even better one.

### **Support Community-based Disaster Preparedness.**

Guided by his discussions with community- and faith-based organizations (CBOs) following Hurricane Sandy, Bill de Blasio has outlined a series of recommendations to better harness the power of CBOs in preparation for the next major disaster. This includes (1) formalizing a collaborative plan that integrates CBOs into the City's emergency management plan and ensures training for these groups, (2) enhancing communications networks to facilitate better coordination and distribution of supplies through CBOs, and (3) strengthen on-site coordinate through the creation of neighborhood specific emergency plans.

**Increase Resiliency in Our Neighborhoods.** In outlining his resiliency plan, Mayor Bloomberg wisely rejected big headline-grabbing, budget busting solutions like offshore barriers, which would cause unknown environmental damage and likely increase damage to coastlines farther away from protected barriers. Instead, the City needs to do a lot of targeted upgrades in every community, from armored stone shoreline protections in Coney Island to hardening vulnerable overhead power lines in Queens against winds, in order to protect local assets from the multiple threats of flood, rains, drought, windstorm and a host of other threats where general resilience, not any single solution, will be the key factor to weathering the next storm.

**Expand Natural Storm Barriers and Protections.** By restoring our coastal ecosystem, including wetlands and dunes, New York City can make important strides in protecting against future storm surges. Tidal wetlands serve many functions, from filtering water going out to sea, to perhaps its most important purpose, slowing and storing rising storm waters that could cause damage on shore. Sand dunes, especially ones with dune grass, played a vital role in sheltering communities from high winds and seawater. A modest investment in lining our shores with sand dunes, especially on the Rockaways and other beach areas, can save our city tens of millions of dollars when the next storm hits. New York City will also renew our waterways — such as the Gowanus Canal, Newtown Creek, and Jamaica Bay — to improve our water ecosystems and implement a five-borough bioswales initiative to minimize the pressure on our water and sewer system.

**Upgrade and Strengthen the City's Infrastructure.** In his role as a trustee of the City's largest pension fund, Bill de Blasio introduced a resolution in 2012 to dramatically ex-

pand local investments in infrastructure. Using both disaster relief funds and additional resources from the state and federal government, Bill de Blasio will coordinate financing for the construction, rehabilitation, replacement and expansion of infrastructure – maximizing the use of public funds while also mobilizing private sector resources.

**Rebuild Smarter by Embracing Green and Flood-resistant Technologies.** As the rebuilding process continues, New York City has an opportunity to upgrade construction to improve the long-term resilience of our communities. Bill de Blasio will ensure that new buildings meet new green energy and resiliency standards, while the City will provide long-term loans, using recovery funds and anticipated energy savings, to assist retrofitting older buildings. The City will adjust zoning to allow greater height in flood zones to account for elevating buildings and support upzoning for more resilient multi-unit housing to replace more vulnerable low-lying housing in flood zones.

**Improve Resiliency of Power Systems.** We need to embrace green technology and modernize our electrical system to increase efficiency and create redundancies, while reducing consumer energy demand and using smart meters to ease power management in times of emergency. By rebuilding schools with backup solar power systems, for example, they can serve as energy-independent emergency centers during future storms or blackouts. Where feasible, we will add new solar infrastructure in areas prone to power cutoffs in places like the Rockaways.

**Make Our Health Care Systems More Secure.** To protect our medical system in times of emergency, we need to improve the design of new hospitals, retrofit older ones, and expand electronic health records to ensure access to patient data during emergencies or in case of the destruction of medical facilities.

**Plan for Extreme Heat Danger.** With predictions that summers in New York in coming decades will resemble Birmingham, Alabama, Bill de Blasio will develop plans for dealing with extreme heat, especially for the poor and elderly population. We need to create a community response system to implement a Heat Health Warning system with expanded outreach to vulnerable individuals and access to air conditioning during heat waves.

**Use Post-Sandy Rebuilding to Put New Yorkers Back to Work in Living Wage Jobs.** One key way to assist communities devastated by Sandy is to ensure that local residents in affected areas are put back to work at living wage jobs on both immediate recovery and long-term work upgrading the resiliency of our City. We need to expand efforts like HireNYC and include incentives in every city contract for recovery to encourage those local residents to be hired for the work upgrading and retrofitting infrastructure and buildings.

**Exercise National Leadership on Fighting Climate Change.** However, nothing New York City does alone can stop the escalating damage of increasing climatic events if our nation and world does not limit the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change. Bill de Blasio will help lead other mayors and grassroots organizations across the country to demand national politicians enact the legislation and policies needed to radically reduce carbon use nationwide over the coming decades to limit the causes, not just the consequences, of climate change.



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