



February 4, 2016

**ONE NEW YORK: WORKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS  
DOWNTOWN FAR ROCKAWAY REVITALIZATION**

Mayor de Blasio is announcing a \$91 million investment for the revitalization of Downtown Far Rockaway, a historical commercial corridor that provides significant opportunity to spur new economic activity. The City will work with public non-profit and private-sector partners to bring new mixed-income housing, retail, and community facilities – along with employment opportunities – to the downtown area.

**Details**

- Downtown Far Rockaway has for years faced many challenges, with area revitalization often stifled by geographic isolation, underutilized properties, and crumbling infrastructure. Its unemployment rate ~~that~~ is more than double the citywide rate.
- The City's plans, to be announced by the Mayor this evening, will focus on reestablishing Downtown Far Rockaway as the commercial and transportation hub of the Rockaway peninsula. This includes repositioning the area as a mixed-use district – including new mixed-income housing, and creating the conditions for private-sector and non-profit investment in long-underutilized downtown properties.
- The City is poised to take a number of immediate steps to ensure this process gets off the ground, including releasing an RFP to develop a long-underutilized Department of Transportation-owned municipal lot, and the funding of improvements at area storefronts and the Sorrentino Recreation Center. The public approval and input process surrounding this economic development initiative will begin later this year.

###

