

Dear City Planning Commissioners,

On behalf of the many families in our congregations struggling to find affordable housing and remain in their homes, we write in strong support of Mayor de Blasio’s plan to build and protect 200,000 affordable apartments—enough housing for half a million people. And we write to support two key parts of that plan that are before the City Planning Commission. The two zoning changes will mean thousands more apartments affordable to our congregants.

Many of our congregations have deep experience building and supporting affordable housing in our communities. It is one of the issues that most deeply affects the families we serve. And it is powerful to have a City administration that is taking concrete steps to build and protect the affordable housing New Yorkers so desperately need.

The first change, Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, will make it a hard and fast requirement to build affordable housing under any new rezoning. For the first time in our city’s history, affordable housing will be required by law. And the City has committed to use its resources, on top of the zoning rules, to drive rents down the cost of new housing so it’s affordable for even more families, including those making as little as \$18,000 per year.

The other change we support will update long-outdated rules that make it unnecessarily costly and difficult to build new affordable housing. That’s waste we can’t afford in midst of the worst affordable housing crisis we’ve ever faced. These reforms will maximize the affordable housing we can build in our neighborhoods and pave the way for new senior housing developments we need for our elders.

We know that there are many considerations and steps along the way to approval of these plans, and many voices to be heard. It is our considered opinion that, in the interest of enabling generations of families to live and thrive in the neighborhoods they love, these plans should be adopted.

Please join us in supporting of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and the Zoning for Quality and Affordability text amendments.

Sincerely,

Rev. Richard Del Rio	Abounding Grace Ministries
Imam Tahir Kukaj	Albanian Cultural Center
Asghar Bhutta	Al-Mustafa Islamic Center Brighton Beach Inc.
Rev. Melvin Wilson	AME Church, New York Annual Conference
Chaplain Emeka Nwigwe	Anglican Church of the Pentecost International
Dr. Kim Best	Anointed-By-God Ministries
The Venerable William C. Parnell	Archdeacon for Mission Episcopal Diocese of New York
Rev. Katherine Henderson	Auburn Seminary
Imam Syed Mir Hussain	Bait-ul-Karam Islamic Center
Rev. Adolphus Lacey	Bethany Baptist Church
Ana Ofelia Rodriguez	Broadway Housing
Pastor Domingo Pino	Centro Cristiano de Adoracion
Pastor Blas Wright	Centro de Adoracion Bayside
Rev. AR Bernard	Christian Cultural Church
Rev. Cornell Edmonds	Church of the Covenant

Rabbi Bernard Freilich	Community Leader
Rabbi Jonah Geffen	Congregation Shaare Zedek
Mohammad Razvi	Council of People's Organization
Rev. Elisa M. Vicioso	Emmanuel-First Spanish United Methodist Church
Rabbi Joseph Potasnik	Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis/Senior Rabbi at Congregation Mt. Sinai, Brooklyn Heights
Gertrude Lilly	Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary
Rev. D.A. Sherron	Global Fire International Church
Rev. Alfred Cockfield, MBA	God's Battalion of Prayer
Rev. Marc Pierre	Gospel Assembly
Pastor Rohan Wellington	Greater New York Conference
Randolph Bowen	Guiding Light Pentecostal Church
Rev. Timothy Taylor Sr.	Hebron Baptist Church
Deacon Ricardo Shark	Higher Praise Ministries
Bishop Steve Belgrove	His Majesty International Fellowship
Pastor Leonel Mateo	Iglesia Cristiana Cielos Abiertos
Yolanda Brown	Imanis Quest Ministries
Rev. Chloe Breyer	Interfaith Center of New York
Iman Boukadoum	Interfaith Center of New York
Imam Sharif Ul Islam	Islamic Center of Brighton Beach Inc. Omar Masjid
Cheikh Ahmed Mbareck	Islamic Leadership Council
Elder Dr. Yvonne Salaman	Jesus Saves Back to Life Ministries, Inc.
Pastor Shane Vidal	Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church
David Kayode	Marantha Baptist Church
Imam Souleiman Konate	Masjid Aqsa Mosque
Bishop Victor Brown	Mt. Sinai Church, Staten Island
Pastor Gil Monroe	Mt. Zion Church of 7th Day
Michael J. Callaghan, c.o.	Nazareth Housing NYC
Min. John Williams	New Creation Ministries Inc.
Pastor Phillip Wesley	New Dimension SDA Church
Bishop Orlando Findlayter	New Hope Christian Fellowship
Pastor Nigel Lewis	New Life Temple SDA
Hiram Ratliff	New Tabernacle Baptist Church
Dr. Donnieval Walker	North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church
Rev. Leonard Hatter Jr	Partnership Ministries
Pastor Earl Baldwin	Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church
Rev. Dr. Robert Foltz-Morrison	Presbytery of New York City
Rev. Terry Troia	Project Hospitality
Rev. Sharon Petgrave-Cundy	Sheepshead Bay United Methodist Church
Pastor Trevor Baker	South Ozone Park SDA Church
Pastor Alcir de Sa	Spanish Missionary Church
Father Eddie Alleyne	St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church
Pastor Shante Edgehill	St. Peter's Deliverance Ministries

Bishop Earl McKay	The Church of God of Prophecy
Bishop Raymond Blanchette	The Clergy Campaign for Social & Economic Justice
Rev. James Forbes	The Drum Institute
Elder James Richmond	The World Church of SDA
Fred Davie	Union Theological Seminary
Rev. Evelyn Castellano	United Chaplains state of New York
Rev. Victoria Kittoe	United Methodist Church in Staten Island
Imam Shahbaz Ahmad Chishti	Zia-ul-Karam Islamic Center Inc.
Pastor Adlerette Kebreau	

CC:

Mayor Bill DeBlasio

Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

Council Member David Greenfield

Council Member Donovan Richards

Council Member Peter Koo

Council Member Inez Dickens