

## **BUILD IT BACK, BP ADAMS, AND CM TREYGER ANNOUNCE UPDATE TO EFFORTS TO HELP HOMEOWNERS RELOCATE DURING CONSTRUCTION**

BROOKLYN, NY, February 10, 2016: Today, the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery, in partnership with Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams and Council Member Mark Treyger, chair of the Committee on Recovery and Resiliency, made an appeal to Brooklyn landlords to provide available apartments to Build it Back homeowners needing to temporarily relocate. The appeal comes as Build it Back is entering negotiations with a new Temporary Housing Service provider, which will offer relocation resources to residents of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

Together, these temporary housing initiatives will allow the program to continue to accelerate construction as it moves aggressively toward Mayor Bill de Blasio's [goal of completion by the end of 2016](#). Build it Back has now raised more than 100 homes citywide, started construction on 2,441, and finished construction on 1,496 — including 815 starts and 503 completes in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn landlords interested in helping can call Build it Back at (212) 615-8329. All landlords will be reimbursed up to the rental amounts specified in the chart below. In the past month, 16 landlords have stepped forward citywide.

To broaden its reach, Build it Back is partnering with the Brooklyn Borough President's Office of Faith-Based and Clergy Initiatives to appeal to congregations throughout the borough. They will be making specialized outreach to houses of worship in affected communities, including Bergen Beach, Brighton Beach, Canarsie, Coney Island, Flatlands, Georgetown, Gerritsen Beach, Gravesend, Manhattan Beach, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Red Hook, Sea Gate, and Sheepshead Bay.

“The Mayor set the target of completing the program by the end of the year and we are moving forward to make that happen,” said Amy Peterson, director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery. “In the past few months we've closed out our case management process, put all homeowners in design, and started many in construction – including 815 construction starts and 503 construction completions in Brooklyn. To bring the program to the finish line, we are taking a multi-pronged approach to providing temporary housing for homeowners. Today, we appealed to Brooklyn landlords to step up and help their neighbors. We appreciate the continued partnership of Council Member Treyger and Borough President Adams.”

“We are One Brooklyn, and we look out for our neighbors in need,” said Borough President Adams. “For victimized homeowners still looking to recover from the wrath of Superstorm Sandy, it is critical that we find landlords willing to open their apartments — and their hearts — for this greater rebuilding effort. I am committed to working with Build it Back to assist in this search, including specialized outreach to our faith community.”

“Many New Yorkers displayed a true compassion and generosity during and after Superstorm Sandy in doing their part to help their neighbors,” said Council Member Treyger. “Now, we are appealing to New Yorkers again as we make a final push to finish rebuilding homes damaged by

Sandy’s devastation. It is imperative that we find housing opportunities for storm victims still in need of temporary relocation. I would like to extol Director Peterson for her attention to the needs and concerns of storm victims who do not have the means to relocate during home repairs or elevations, and for partnering with officials like Borough President Adams and local stakeholders to steer outreach on this integral aspect of the recovery process.”

“New Yorkers should not have to worry about where they will live because their homes are damaged as a result of a natural disaster” said State Senator Roxanne J. Persaud. “I join the Mayor’s Office of Housing Recovery, Borough President Adams and Council Member Mark Treyger in the commitment to ensuring that the Build it Back Temporary Relocation Assistance Program continues to provide these homeowners with the assistance they deserve. The priority of every public servant must be to help New York’s vulnerable in their time of need.”

These new initiatives, supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, build off programs put in place in the past year as part of Mayor de Blasio’s broader Sandy recovery overhaul, including:

Build it Back Temporary Relocation Assistance Program

In April of 2014, the City dedicated funding for a Temporary Relocation Assistance program, which covers rental expenses for homeowners displaced during construction. To date, more than 200 claims have been made.

Monthly Relocation Benefit Cap				
1 person household	2 person household	3 person household	4 person household	5 person household
\$1,495	\$1,561.25	\$1,851.25	\$2,380	\$2,667

Sandy Temporary Rental Program

In June, Build it Back, the Mayor’s Fund to Advance NYC, and the New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) launched the one-year, privately-funded Sandy Temporary Rental Program to provide housing assistance for vulnerable and under-resourced homeowners for the duration of construction. Administered by NYDIS and funded by the American Red Cross, Robin Hood Foundation, the Building Trade Employers’ Association, the Salvation Army, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the Sandy Temporary Rental Program operates in conjunction with Build it Back’s Temporary Relocation Assistance program, which already provides rental reimbursement for homeowners relocated for at least a month due to construction.

To date, the program has placed 26 homeowners. These services will continue uninterrupted until the citywide services provider is selected.

The Sandy Temporary Rental Program serves as a model for the new housing provider procurement. The Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery will provide access to:

- a stock of available apartments ready for immediate occupancy
- subsidies for rent and moving expenses
- apartments conducive to homeowner needs, including accommodations for pets
- emergency hotel placements for homeowners who must immediately vacate their homes

The new Temporary Housing Service provider will add capacity for the City to ensure that households are assisted in locating temporary housing in a tight market, and receive services to help them transition out of their homes and back in when construction is completed.

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