

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAYOR BLOOMBERG'S STATEMENT ON THE CITY'S SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE TO THE CENSUS BUREAU  
SHOWING NEW YORK'S POPULATION ROSE BY MORE THAN TWO PERCENT SINCE THE 2000 CENSUS**

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg today announced that the U.S. Census Bureau has revised its official estimate of New York City's population as of July 2004 to 8,168,338. This is 64,259 more people than the Bureau had originally estimated for this period and represents a 2% population growth in the City since the 2000 Census, or 160,060 more New Yorkers. The increase is based on the City's challenge of Census Bureau estimates of growth in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. Staten Island and Bronx growth figures were not contested. Over the next five years, this increase in the City's estimated population will result in over \$25 million more in federal aid to New York State to help fund the creation of affordable housing. The City, with its active housing market, receives a large portion of these revenue streams.

"Not only does this growth show the City's resilience, and New Yorkers' continued confidence in the City and our policies to ensure its economic future, but it also translates into substantial federal aid for affordable housing that is based on our estimated population," said Mayor Bloomberg. "I want to thank the Census Bureau for working with our demographers and analysts at the Department of City Planning to validate this important data for New York and allow us to get our fair share. As each month passes, we continue to surpass previous records for new housing permits, which supports our projections that, if current trends continue, the City's population will be in the range of 8.4 million in 2010. That's why our Administration is providing for New Yorkers of today and tomorrow with a five-borough economic development strategy to create housing and jobs so that New York continues to be a City of Opportunity."

The City's Department of City Planning (DCP) successfully challenged the Bureau's original July 2004 population estimate using an alternate method that shows the link between the City's booming housing market and increased population. For the second consecutive year, DCP was able to show that Brooklyn and Queens are growing at twice the rate the Bureau estimated. This year, DCP also was able to show that in Manhattan, the large number of commercial-to-residential conversions, together with a healthy jump in new construction, have led to a 3.5% increase in population of more than 54,000 residents since 2000, which is 28,000 more than the Bureau had estimated. It is especially significant that the population continued to grow even after the tragic attacks of September 2001. Nearly two-thirds of these new converted units are below Chambers Street, helping to create a revitalized 24/7 community.

For more information on the population estimates see the [population update](#).

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**About City Planning**

The Department of City Planning is responsible for the City's physical and socioeconomic planning, including land use and environmental review; preparation of plans and policies; and provision of technical assistance and planning information to government agencies, public officials, and community boards.