



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 504-A

Resolution calling upon the State of New York to match the City of New York's commitment to create 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years, and the State of New York and the City of New York to approve a fourth "New York/New York Agreement" to create permanent supportive housing

By Council Members Levin, Chin, Eugene, Mendez, Palma, Torres, Rosenthal, Rodriguez, Reynoso, Lander, Menchaca, Johnson, Kallos and Koo

Whereas, On December 28, 2015, the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), identified 57,896 New Yorkers in its homeless shelters, including 23,326 children and 12,127 families; and

Whereas, According to the Coalition for the Homeless, another 5,000 homeless New Yorkers sleep in other public or private shelters that house domestic violence survivors, people living with HIV and AIDS, runaway youth and other homeless individuals; and

Whereas, According to DHS, there are also thousands of homeless individuals sleeping on the street, parks, or other public locations; and

Whereas, Cities and states have invested in supportive housing to reduce the homeless population; and

Whereas, Supportive housing is a blend of affordable housing and support services to help individuals and families who have a chronic history of being homeless; and

Whereas, This model provides tenants with housing stability while on-site support services helps individuals and families overcome obstacles to independent living such as psychosocial, intellectual, or physical health problems; and

Whereas, Under the "New York/New York" (NY/NY) housing agreements, New York City and New York State have committed to build supportive housing units; and

Whereas, The NY/NY agreements have resulted in the creation of over 14,000 new supportive housing units since 1990; and

Whereas, According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Health (DOHMH), all of the 9,000 supportive housing units planned under the current agreement, New York/New York III (NY/NY III), will be completed by this year; and

Whereas, There is not enough supportive housing to house the eligible homeless population; and

Whereas, According to a report by the Corporation for Supportive Housing, it is estimated that in New York City, four out of every five people found eligible for supportive housing have to either remain in shelter or on the street because of the lack of available units; and

Whereas, The shortage of supportive housing will worsen when the NY/NY III agreement ends; and

Whereas, A 2013 DOHMH report titled “New York/New York III Supportive Housing Evaluation,” compared the costs of government subsidized healthcare, social services and jail utilization of eligible applicants placed in NY/NY III supportive housing to those of NY/NY III applicants who were not placed in supportive housing over the period of 2007 to 2009, and found that with NY/NY III service and operational costs taken into consideration, costs for the supportive housing tenants were \$10,100 less than the costs for unplaced individuals for all social services, benefits and jail use; and

Whereas, Supportive housing has been demonstrated to be a humane and economical way to house formerly homeless people and other populations; and

Whereas, On November 18, 2015, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a plan by the City of New York to fund and create 15,000 units of supportive housing over the next 15 years; and

Whereas, On November 19, 2015, the Committees on General Welfare and Housing and Buildings held an oversight hearing, “Supportive Housing in New York City,” where advocates including the Supportive Housing Network, Housing Works, the Coalition for the Homeless, the Legal Aid Society, Citizens’ Committee

for Children and others testified that the State must match the City's commitment and fund an additional 15,000 units of supportive housing in New York City; and

Whereas, A new NY/NY agreement can help reduce the current homeless shelter population, and would allow formerly homeless New Yorkers to live with as much independence as possible; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the State of New York to match the City of New York's commitment to create 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years, and the State of New York and the City of New York to approve a fourth "New York/New York Agreement" to create permanent supportive housing.

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