



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
The State of New York Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to you as duly elected members of the New York City Council, with regard to the alarming magnitude of homelessness throughout New York City and across our state, and the attendant human and financial costs this growing crisis has on our communities.

New York City has looked to solve this problem by increasing the number of shelters throughout our communities. While shelters are an important piece of addressing this crisis, they are meant to be a temporary measure, not a long-term solution. The only real way to address this crisis is through a statewide rental supplement. We call on you to initiate a new program to stem the tide of displacement that is driving large numbers of families and individuals into homelessness every day.

Specifically, we call on you to establish the Home Stability Support (HSS) program. HSS will be a new statewide, State and Federal-funded rent supplement program to bridge the difference between public assistance shelter allowances and 85 percent of Federal Fair Market Rents and also address the high costs of heating when borne by families. HSS is designed to assist:

- Each family or individual facing a loss of housing due to formal or informal eviction, domestic violence, or hazardous conditions;
- Those who are already homeless and living doubled-up, in shelters, or living on the street.

This is the most cost-effective solution for preventing homelessness and it requires Executive action to replace the current patchwork of local programs that reach only a small fraction of those in need.

The problem of homelessness has reached a critical juncture, and the costs to our communities are unsustainable. It is time to boldly and adequately attack the preventable causes of record homelessness. Please see detailed recommendations at HomeStabilitySupport.com.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephen T. Levin in black ink.

Stephen T. Levin
Chair, Committee on General Welfare

Handwritten signature of Barry S. Grodenchik in black ink.

Barry S. Grodenchik
Member, Committee on General Welfare

Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel

Council Member Daniel Dromm

Council Member Adrienne Adams

Council Member Karen Koslowitz

Council Member Ben Kallos (Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus)

Council Member Costa Constantinides

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Council Member Carlos Menchaca (Vice Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus)

Council Member Rafael Espinal

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Council Member Fernando Cabrera

Council Member Peter Koo

Council Member Margaret Chin

Council Member Brad Lander

Council Member Andrew Cohen

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Council Member Francisco Moya



Council Member Bill Perkins



Council Member Antonio Reynoso



Council Member Donovan J. Richards



Council Member Carlina Rivera



Council Member Helen Rosenthal



Council Member Rafael Salamanca



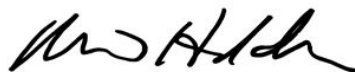
Council Member Paul Vallone



Council Member Eric Ulrich



Council Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo



Council Member Robert Holden



Council Member Ritchie Torres



Council Member Mark Treyger



Council Member James Van Bramer



Council Member Jumaane Williams



Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez



Council Member Andy King



Council Member Justin Brannan

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Council Member Alan Maisel

Handwritten signature of Debi Rose in cursive script.

Council Member Debi Rose