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SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NETWORK OF NEW YORK RELEASES MAYORAL POLICY PLATFORM & HOSTS INAUGURAL FORUM

Six Leading Candidates for Mayor Weigh In On Solving the Homelessness Crisis At First-Ever Forum Hosted By Supportive Housing Network of New York, Trinity Church Wall Street, Enterprise Community Partners, National Association of Social Workers

New York, NY—The Supportive Housing Network of New York (the Network), in partnership with Trinity Church Wall Street, Enterprise Community Partners and the National Association of Social Workers - New York City Chapter, today hosted its first ever mayoral forum.

At the event, entitled “A New New York: A Mayoral Town Hall on Supportive Housing”, six of the leading mayoral candidates were asked about their overall housing plans, and specifically where they stand on supportive housing - a critical tool in addressing the burgeoning homelessness crisis.

Supportive housing provides permanent, affordable housing for chronically homeless New Yorkers. It is often misunderstood or overlooked in housing policy conversations – even as homelessness continues to rise amidst the global pandemic. The forum followed the release of the Network’s [expansive supportive housing policy platform](#), released earlier this week. The Network recommends that candidates, if elected, commit to advance policies that:

1. Develop and Preserve Supportive Housing
2. Reimagine Land Use
3. Rethink NYC 15/15
4. Invest in Supportive Housing Staff
5. Value Nonprofits
6. Disrupt Government Silos
7. Protect Our People

“We are gratified that housing is a prominent issue in the ongoing mayoral race, and all the candidates are talking about how to ensure that the post-pandemic economic recovery results in an affordable and equitable city for all New Yorkers,” said Network Executive Director Laura Mascuch. “It is imperative that supportive housing be part of that discussion, and we were encouraged to hear the participants at tonight’s forum recognize that. We hope to hear even more from all the contenders in the weeks to come.”

The forum was moderated by POLITICO New York reporter Janaki Chadha and SHHNY Senior Policy Analyst Tierra Labrada, and also featured pre-recorded questions from supportive housing staff and tenants, who provided a real-world view on this complex policy issue.

Candidate participants included: Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Shaun Donovan, Kathryn Garcia, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Joycelyn Taylor, and Andrew Yang. The following is a sample of what each candidate had to say, to view the full forum, click [here](#).

“We need to create real partnerships with the communities and have a real engagement, which is something that the city has failed to do far too often.” Said Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. “There will be those NIMBYs, but we need to be clear that housing is a city-wide issue. Everyone should have a right to housing. “

“Too often, supportive housing, drug treatment facilities, and others are put into communities of color,” said Shaun Donovan. “I’ve proposed a citywide process that would become part of ULURP to ensure that we have a fair distribution of supportive housing and others across the city. And that would also ensure that we’re getting a better process in place that cuts down on some of the resistance that we see.” Shaun Donovan

“We need to look at our zoning. There are places in the city where we don’t allow even two-family homes, let alone multi-family homes. We need to fundamentally rethink this,” said Kathryn Garcia. “We need to look at where we are rich in transit, jobs and schools, and make sure that that is where we are putting our affordable housing. That’s a citywide view.”

“We should be able to cut a billion dollars from the NYPD budget by rethinking what a public safety plan would look like,” said New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer. “We have an opportunity now to create a plan that would invest more money into communities of affordable housing, mentorship programs for young people, making sure we keep kids away from the criminal justice system, and move this money to actually prevent people from over being over-policed in communities.”

“We need to ensure a living wage for residents of the city who are working and providing essential services,” said Joycelyn Taylor. “We can’t just talk about how much we appreciate them. We need to show them we value them by giving them a living wage.”

“There should be no delay where nonprofit contracts get verified more slowly than other types of contracts. That is just flat wrong,” said Andrew Yang. “The city not being able to pay its bills on time is not an administrative problem. It’s an abuse of organizations that are trying to do the right thing. We need to pay our bills, so that you can pay your bills, and you can operate with visibility and transparency.”

About the Network:

The Supportive Housing Network of New York is a 32-year-old nonprofit membership organization representing more than 220 nonprofits statewide that build and run supportive housing. The Network began life as a handful of pioneers seeking to create a respectful new model of housing to meet the needs of chronically homeless New Yorkers and evolved alongside the movement. As the only supportive housing membership organization in the state and the largest in the country, the Network serves as a voice for the provider community, which has created the largest, best managed and most innovative supportive housing stock in the nation.

About the event co-sponsors:

Enterprise Community Partners is the only national nonprofit that addresses America's affordable housing crisis from every angle, combining 40 years of experience, thousands of local partners and the expertise of over 1,100 employees nationwide. Enterprise develops and deploys programs and support community organizations on the ground, advocates for policy on a nonpartisan basis at every level of government, invests capital to build and preserve rental homes people can afford, as well as owns and operates 13,000 affordable homes and provide resident services for 22,000 people.

The New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-NYC) is one of the largest chapters of NASW in the country. Founded in 1955, NASW-NYC represents professional social workers who are working throughout the five boroughs, primarily in public and non-profit organizations. Social workers are also in private practice and in other for-profit service related settings. Nationally, NASW is the largest organization representing social workers in the world. The national organization seeks to develop and promote professional standards for social work practice along with NASW's widely recognized Code of Ethics. NASW also advocates for strengthening programs on behalf of social work clients and for policies that support social workers in their professional work.

Trinity Church Wall Street is a growing and inclusive Episcopal parish that seeks to serve and heal the world by building neighborhoods that live Gospel truths, generations of faithful leaders, and sustainable communities. Trinity is guided by the core values: faith, integrity, inclusiveness, compassion, social justice, and stewardship. Members come from New York City and surrounding areas to form a racially, ethnically, and economically diverse congregation. Trinity Church and St. Paul's Chapel are the cornerstones of the parish's community life, worship, and mission.