



Mayor's State of City Focuses on Affordable Housing and Minimum Wage

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Mayor Bill de Blasio presented his State of the City address yesterday which once again focused on the challenge of inequality in New York. He outlined plans for extensive development of new affordable housing that could be developed by requiring affordable units in new areas of the City that are rezoned for residential housing. As one part of this development plan, the Mayor called for setting aside some new affordable housing for veterans, seniors and artists and musicians.

The Mayor also proposed an indexed increase in the City's minimum wage to more than \$13 per hour in 2016 and eventually to \$15 per hour by 2019.

While broader reaction to the Mayor's proposals were decidedly mixed, several nonprofit human service advocates expressed quick support.

"The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies commends Mayor Bill de Blasio for his continued commitment to economic equity for all New Yorkers, as evidenced by his plans to ensure that every New Yorker is paid a living wage, has affordable housing, and has quality job opportunities. FPWA shall continue working with the Administration and our nonprofit partners to achieve these goals."

Igal Jellinek, Executive Director of LiveOn NY (formerly The Council of Senior Centers and Services), said "On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of older New Yorkers who struggle with issues of affordable housing, we applaud Mayor Bill de Blasio and his administration for taking a series of steps this past year to address this growing problem."

Mitchell Netburn, President & CEO of Project Renewal, also praised the administration "for their commitment to veterans and to alleviating the homelessness crisis. And, we commit to being a partner in the effort to help veterans renew their lives."