
NYC Mayoral Cabinet: Tackling the Homelessness Crisis

StuyMUNC 2022

**Chairs: Naya Mukul and Olivia
Tedesco**

Table of Contents

Introductions from your NYC Mayoral Committee Dais	2
Committee Information	4
Committee Background	5
The NYC Housing Crisis	5
Previous Attempted Solutions	6
Varied Impacts of the Pandemic	7
Committee Positions	8

Introductions from your NYC Mayoral Cabinet Dais

Dear Delegates,

Greetings and welcome to StuyMUNC 2022! My name is Naya Mukul and I am delighted to serve as your co-chair for the NYC Mayoral Cabinet this year. I'm a senior at Stuyvesant and I've been a part of our delegation for four years, currently on the Mentoring Team on the Lower Secretariat of Personnel. I also serve as President of Spanish Meets You, a community-based Spanish tutoring service, and am a co-founder of the Stuyvesant chapter of Coalition Z, a national youth-led organization creating concrete political change by bridging the gap between Generation Z and our government. I have done extensive community organizing work during the pandemic dealing with food and housing insecurity as well as vaccine outreach, so I'm truly excited to facilitate the creation of solutions applicable to our city and community on a larger scale. This will be my fourth time chairing a committee, and I'm looking forward to hearing your elaborate ideas in collaboration with others. I hope to see lots of creativity and collaboration in committee, and that the topic at hand gives you some more context on the social, political, and economic implications of the role that local and regional governments play in moderating and mitigating conflict throughout New York City, and how it fits into the broader scope of today's ever-changing world.

It is in your best interest to pursue further research beyond the background guide and truly delve into the many aspects of the topic at hand, while upholding the key standards that make committee what it is, such as creativity, sticking to policy, and collaboration. StuyMUNC has never failed to give me the chance to witness the many aspects that make MUN so great, from the warm, supportive environment both in and out of committee, to the enlightening, innovative ideas brought to discussion. It is in my best hopes that you experience the same this year. We are so thrilled to meet all of you and see what everyone brings to the table! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Olivia. Best of luck!

Many thanks,

Naya Mukul

nmukul20@stuy.edu

Hello delegates!

My name is Olivia Tedesco, and I am delighted to be your co-chair for StuyMUNC 2022! I am currently a senior here at Stuyvesant High School, and this is my fourth year participating in Model UN. I currently hold the position of Under Secretary General of Personnel for this club, meaning I aid in leading and planning meetings and preparing our incoming delegates. Although this will be my fourth time chairing a Model UN committee, it is my first time working in a specialized committee! I am excited to work with you delegates in a committee that is so prevalent to us today, and addresses issues that we see in the city that most of us call home.

Although Naya and I will include much background information on the topic of this committee and on each of your individual positions, it is imperative that you conduct your own research to ensure that this committee explores the topic to the best extent. Your directors and I would look very favorably upon those who really play upon details of the character which they were assigned, and pay close attention to how that particular character would compose themselves in the situations presented in committee. We will be paying close attention to those who really try to move the committee forward, presenting unique solutions and perspectives on the topics at hand. This committee addresses a topic that covers a lot of ground, so we are happy to see committee members take the debate in many different directions.

For those of you who may be newer to Model UN, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have, and please feel free to ask as many questions as you'd like during the course of the committee as well. And for those more experienced delegates, I hope this committee can provide you with a fun and stimulating experience that is different from any committee you've participated in before. Good luck, and see you all soon!

All the best,

Olivia Tedesco

otedesco@stuy.edu

Committee Information

This committee will tackle the issue of homelessness in NYC, while also allowing delegates to debate on who is the best candidate for mayor. As each of you will be representing a different political figure, this means that each of you will have your own portfolio powers. These portfolio powers are essentially connections or abilities that your particular position has that others may not have. By doing research into your particular position, you can discover what your specific abilities are, and you can use these to your advantage throughout the course of the committee.

This committee is a specialized committee, which essentially means it borrows rules from both general assembly and crisis committees. In a specialized committee, delegates enact policies through directives, which are much like resolutions, however they are shorter and drafted and passed several times throughout committee. Specialized committees, however, do not have crisis notes,

Finally, StuyMUNC does not require position papers, however the dias strongly recommends them. Please be sure to format your papers with a header that includes your first and last name, school, position, and topic (if applicable).

Position papers should relay specific aspects of one's character, their goal in committee, and the tactics they expect to use to achieve that goal. The final deadline for position paper submission is by first committee session, however if one wants to receive feedback they must email it to the chair by April 30th.

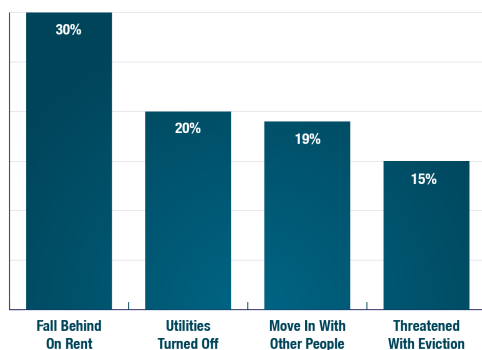
If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the committee content or one's particular assignment, please do not hesitate to email either chair at otedesco20@stuy.edu or nmukul20@stuy.edu.

Committee Background

The NYC Housing Crisis

In the past decade, New York's population has grown by around 10%, and the city's available housing has failed to accommodate this growing population. While there was a 7% increase in the available housing in the city, there has not been enough growth to accommodate the whole population, and this 7% growth is smaller than the growth from the decade before. 'The lack of housing itself is only one piece of the puzzle of the city's homelessness crisis: many New Yorkers can not afford the apartments they already reside in due to large increases in rent and loss of employment. Before the pandemic even began, more than half of New Yorkers were spending over 30% of their income on rent alone.

FIGURE 1. SHARE OF LOW-INCOME RENTERS EXPERIENCING HOUSING HARDSHIPS (2019)

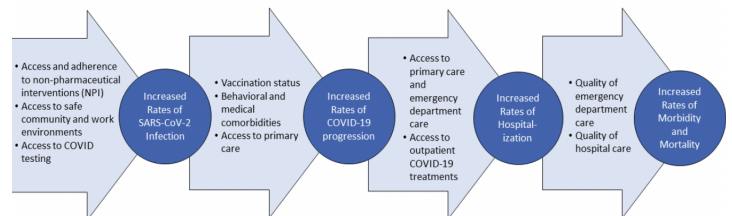


Source: 2019 CSS Unheard Third survey.

1

<https://www.thecity.nyc/2022/1/5/22869518/housing-trends-to-watch-for-the-future-of-nyc>

This inability to meet high rent demand was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which left many New Yorkers without a steady income. While federal aid was provided to many New Yorkers and a moratorium was placed in order to help prevent evictions, many landlords have been filing cases to evict their residents as soon as the moratorium ends. Furthermore, evictions are more likely to affect those in Black and Latino neighborhoods since many of these neighborhoods were hotspots for the pandemic itself.²

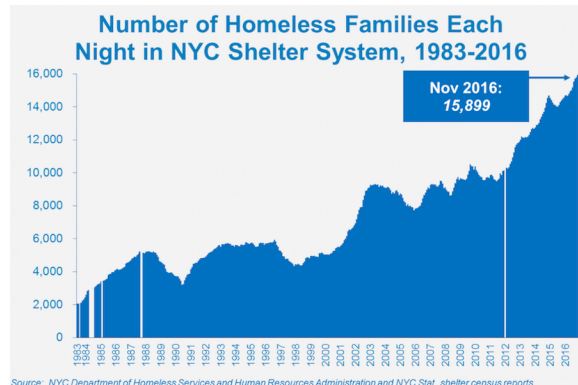


With an increasing number of evictions, the city also sees a rise in its homeless population. While the ideal solution to homelessness is to attempt to rectify the housing crisis, there is also a lot that can be done in the city in regards to infrastructure for those who are homeless. For example, in many parts of the city benches are specifically designed so that people cannot sleep on them. This kind of infrastructure does not

2

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/realestate/new-york-city-renters-evictions.html>

eradicate homelessness, nor does it help get to the root of the issue as to why there are those who are homeless in the first place.

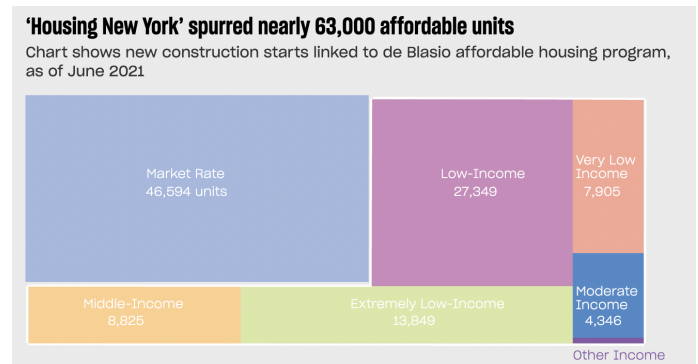


Previous Attempted Solutions

In 2014, Mayor Bill de Blasio implemented the Housing New York plan and promised to create 80,000 new affordable units over the next ten years. De Blasio’s initiative was somewhat successful: since 2014, his plan has led to the creation of 62,577 units, most of which are located in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Around ¼ of these units are for New Yorkers who are classified as “extremely low income”, which refers to families of three who make less than \$32,220 a year.³

3

<https://www.thecity.nyc/2022/1/5/22869518/housing-trends-to-watch-for-the-future-of-nyc>



Furthermore, the 421a program, implemented almost 50 years ago in New York state, provides tax incentives for developers to build more housing, particularly for multi-family residential housing. This past year, Governor Kathy Hochul has offered a substitute for the 421a program since the majority of the housing that this program tends to create is only affordable for those who make over \$100,000 a year. This substitute program offers similar tax exemptions, but also ensures that new housing is built for low income New Yorkers, since they make up a large majority of those who suffer from the housing crisis.⁴

Additionally, the State legislature and the governor have been attempting to move forward with legalizing basement and garage apartments in New York. Implementing a law like this one will not only protect New Yorkers that already live in these apartments from eviction, but it will also create

4

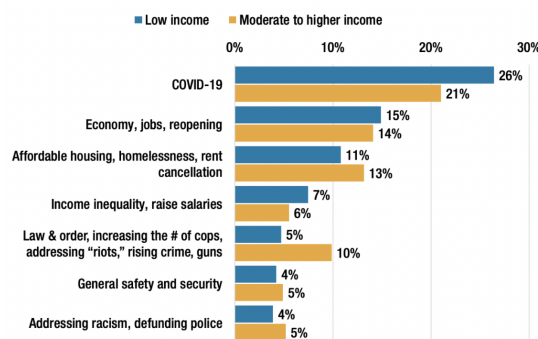
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/28/opinion/new-york-affordable-housing.html>

thousands of new potential housing units in the city. Another law that is in the process of being discussed is a law that would ease the conversion of old

hotels and office space into affordable housing.

Varied Impacts of the Pandemic

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the disastrous consequences it had on New York City as a whole, the Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020 was put into place and considered one of the most expansive rent relief programs in the state. However, it was withdrawn by Gov. Kathy Hochul in January, and may put residents at danger of being evicted by landlords. Due to the backlog of cases and removal processes, the termination of the eviction moratorium will take longer than anticipated, but the implications are still negative for impacted residents.



Further, specific communities in various areas of New York City such as

Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, and Corona in Queens and Mapleton, Borough Park and Bensonhurst in Brooklyn have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic in many ways; accessibility to vaccines, testing, and personal protective equipment has been limited, and housing insecurity has increased as well. ⁵

Low income families in particular have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic from the lens of housing insecurity; programs such as NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority), one of the country's largest public development and housing programs, have become neglected and abandoned by government entities, and as a result various infrastructural issues have formed in the past two years. ⁶

5

<https://time.com/5815820/data-new-york-low-income-neighborhoods-coronavirus/>

6

<https://www.cssny.org/news/entry/the-post-pandemic-future-nyc-low-income-new-yorkers>

Committee Positions

Eric Adams: Brooklyn Borough President, former NY State Senator and NYPD captain. Housing platform focuses on affordability and development of supportive housing, as well as rezoning and repurposing of wealthy areas.

Kathryn Garcia: Former Commissioner of the NYC Department of Sanitation, former interim chair and CEO of the NYC Housing Authority, former COO of the NYC Dept of Environmental Protection. Platform in favor of streamlining ULURP, zoning reforms, and more as part of her “Housing that Heals” plan.

Maya Wiley: professor at The New School, former chair at the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board, attorney for NAACP and ACLU, counsel to Bill de Blasio. Platform endorses use of rent subsidies to mitigate the eviction crisis and necessity of capital repairs to the public housing stock.

Andrew Yang: former candidate for U.S. President (2020) and Presidential Ambassador for Global Entrepreneurship, founder of Venture for America. Platform is in favor of the Soho rezoning and repairs to the city’s 300 public housing developments.

Dianne Morales: former CEO of Phipps Neighborhoods, a social services nonprofit, former schoolteacher. Rejects plans proposed to “privatize NYCHA,” and prefers to seek state and federal aid instead.

Scott Stringer: NYC Comptroller, former Manhattan Borough President, assemblymember. Platform includes calls for an increase in the number of affordable units in larger residential buildings with a focus on private developers.

Ray McGuire: Former executive at Citibank. Platform calls for moving homeless populations out of shelters into affordable housing, and utilizing support from entities in business, real estate and entertainment.

Shaun Donovan: Former director of U.S. Office of Management and Budget, former US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Has proposed a rental assistance program that could potentially be funded by money otherwise spent on shelters.

Aaron Foldenauer: attorney; platform calls for abolishment of tax breaks for luxury condominiums and focus resources on communities that

need it the most. Has referenced ideas of upzoning areas such as Jamaica.

Art Chang: Founder of NYCVotes, former JPMorgan director. In favor of mixed income and mixed use developments, especially for low income housing.

Paperboy Prince: Brooklyn rapper; intends to increase permitted building size in areas of low-density neighborhoods in order to promote affordable and other housing development for specific blocks or properties.

Joycelyn Taylor: CEO of TaylorMade Contracting; platform focuses on creating housing affordability and stability in every community, as well as creating ownership opportunities for NYCHA residents.

Isaac Wright Jr: lawyer; major policy proposal consists of reforming NYCHA to make home ownership possible for current NYCHA residents.

Curtis Sliwa: Founder of the Guardian Angels, radio talk show host; platform emphasizes scaling back of city subsidies to affordable housing development, and focusing on the betterment of resources to help renters pay for existing housing.

Fernando Mateo: Founder of New York State Federation of Taxi Drivers; pledged to help landlords just

as much as tenants and intends to split funds received for Battery Park City between NYCHA and other affordable housing programs.

Sara Tirschwell: CEO of Foundation House; development-friendly platform endorses expansion of NYCHA expansion program in order to combat neglect that NYCHA buildings face.

Max Rose: Former U.S. Representative for New York's 11th Congressional district. Would invest heavily in housing infrastructure with an emphasis on public health as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

William Pepitone: retired NYPD police officer; platform includes working with accompanying programs to help residents facing housing insecurity re-enter the workforce, as well as further construction and housing development.

Jumaane Williams: NYC Public Advocate, former NYC Councilmember; "Housing For All" Policy vows to pour more funding into housing subsidies and revamp the Empire State Development Corp.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez: US representative for New York's 14th Congressional district; introduced the Green New Deal for Public Housing in

order to dramatically improve living conditions for residents.