

HIZZONER PITCHES IN Bloomberg has 'Dream'

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Body

MAYOR Michael **Bloomberg** hailed New York as the most immigrant-friendly city in the nation during a visit to the Citizenship NOW! call-in.

Hizzoner stopped by the Daily News and CUNY hotline to chat to volunteers offering free, confidential help to callers.

Bloomberg reiterated his hopes of seeing New York lawmakers pass the **Dream** Act, which would open the state Tuition Assistance Program to all students, regardless of immigration status.

Currently, undocumented students cannot apply for state or federal aid.

"The only place in the country where we don't have any anti-immigrant sentiments is in New York City," **Bloomberg** said.

"Think about how much (immigrants) contribute to the economy . . . if we can get the **Dream** Act to pass, that would be the next big thing."

Borough presidents Scott Stringer, Marty Markowitz, Helen Marshall and Ruben Diaz Jr. also paid a visit, along with Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance and Mexican Consul General Carlos Sada.

"This collaboration has resulted in 100,000 people getting important legal information that could make them citizens, and there's nothing better than that," Stringer said.

English and Spanish-speaking lines are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Friday.

"I'm here because, let's face it, the future of New York depends upon our immigrants," Markowitz said. Gristedes owner John Catsimatidis, who was brought to the U.S. from Greece as a baby, has been a generous sponsor of Citizenship NOW! and is proud to support the initiative.

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Graphic

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Mayor **Bloomberg** greets Citizenship NOW! volunteer. Photos by Jeanne Noonan CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall came by. District Attorney Cy Vance visits midtown call-in center. Gristedes owner and proud call-in sponsor, John Catsimatidis Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. dropped in. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz hailed immigrants.

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