

May 23, 2014

Mr. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor office at City Hall  
253 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. de Blasio,

My name is Oliver and I am a sixth grade student at the United Nations International School. In my class we have been learning about modern day issues around the world and things that can be done to stop them. We discussed issues that each of us care about and want to see change in order to help remediate this issue. I chose the topic of homelessness.

According to the UN and other online sources, there are (as of 2013) 12,734 homeless families, 22,712 homeless children, 19,555 homeless adults in families, 8,470 homeless single men, and 2,882 homeless single women in New York City. As you know, this is a huge problem because these people do not have their own home and may live on the street or in a shelter, in conditions no one should have to live in for any period of time. Also, when there are less people that have a home, there are less people that work and less people to keep this city running.

I am writing to you, both because I want you to take a stand against this issue, and because I know you are already trying to. I am very hopeful that the rise of 25% affordable housing made by private developers to 40% will put more affordable homes in the marketplace and affect this issue positively, even though it is affordable housing, not housing for the poor.

Now, I am aware that you are just getting into office and do have a lot of things people want you to do, but I ask you to think about this one in particular, both because it affects this city so much with the amount of people that are homeless and because you are already doing something that could help. Now some things that you can do to help out with this are typical things like donating some of your own money to organizations like the National Alliance to End Homelessness, The Bowery Residents Committee, City Harvest and many others. Also, you can donate any food or belongings you no longer need that other people in need of them could use. I also ask for you to help remind people and hopefully inspire them to make a change just by the way you personally think would work the best. I hope that that will spark a chain reaction that maybe will make a huge impact on this issue in NYC and leave much less people on the streets every night.

Thank you very much for taking your time to read this letter and report. It has been a work in progress for the whole school year and I will be using it to inform and ask for other people to help out in appropriate ways. I hope this has inspired you to make a change with this issue and I kindly ask for you to respond to me by my email or by mail to my home address because school is almost done for the summer holiday. Together we can all make the world a better place!

Sincerely,

Oliver