

Good afternoon – My name is Richard Flores. I am originally a resident of Queen Village, Queens

I have been homeless since 2015 when I was evicted from my apartment. I have gotten help from friends and family and tried to find permanent housing for myself but to no avail. (Please add to this) I have received assistance from: Coalition for the Homeless, Bowery Mission (Others)

What I have repeatedly experienced and have witnessed is the extent to which homeless people and those that might need extensive support are harassed by the police. I have continually seen people who desperately need with substance abuse or support with severe mental health issues criminalized by the police.

We need a permanent solution to this problem. We need to ensure that people who provide homes for actually get the support they need to remain in those homes. We need to build thousands of units of supportive housing to meet the need.

In 2016, the Governor himself committed to develop 20,000 units of supportive housing. What progress has been made towards that goal? Is it still a priority of the administration to develop those units?

Thousands of units of supportive housing are in disrepair across the State, because of declining operating costs. What is your commitment to ongoing operating of supportive housing, which is home to some of our State's most vulnerable populations and requires continued investment in services to function as intended?

The Governor committed to develop 20,000 supportive housing units in 2016, 6,000 in the first five years. What is the plan for the remaining 14,000 units?

The homelessness crisis is growing in every part of the state.

- Over 92,000 New Yorkers are homeless, according to the HUD Point in Time estimates. This number has increased 36% since Governor Cuomo took office.
- In Rochester, the homeless population grew by 18%, Long Island grew by 20%; Albany grew by 23%; and Binghamton has seen homelessness grow by 31%.
- Most local governments lack the resources necessary to fund the robust social services and housing programs that homeless families need to survive.

Sincerely,
Richard William Flores