

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 903
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE. (518) 455-3451
FAX. (518) 426-6854

DISTRICT OFFICE
30 THIRD AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11217
PHONE. (718) 643-6140
FAX. (718) 237-4137

E-MAIL: MONTGOME@NYSenate.GOV

WEBSITE: MONTGOMERY.NYSenate.GOV



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

March 22, 2017

Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of New York City
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

Maria Torres-Springer
Commissioner
N.Y.C. Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development
100 Gold Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Torres-Springer,

On Saturday March 4th, I joined my colleagues from the State Assembly and City Council at a Community Board 8's meeting to address the Department of Homeless Service's plan to open a homeless shelter at 1173 Bergen Street in Brooklyn.

As often happens at such meetings, constituents articulated frustration and anger with good reason. In this case, the residents of Crown Heights asserted that they have shouldered more than their "fair share" of shelters and feel the City failed to timely inform them of the new shelter in order to circumvent community opposition. Representatives from your office and CORE services, the organization operating the shelter, addressed the concerns as best as they could but ultimately not to the constituents' satisfaction.

Homeless shelters divide communities while affordable housing developments enhance and strengthen neighborhoods. In the last 25 years, the Neighborhood Preservation Companies (NPCs) have been the source of the revitalization of our communities, before the developers 'discovered' Brooklyn. **I am proud to represent a district that is home to numerous developments built by non-profit housing organizations (NPCs) that provide quality affordable housing while respecting the fabric and character of the community.**

I respectfully urge you to create a plan which includes the non-profit housing developers (NPCs) who have expertise in creating **affordable and permanent housing** for the homeless, low and moderate-income individuals and families. This is not an unattainable goal. Only in this way can we address current homelessness and prevent others from joining their ranks. If the City continues to rely on private developers that only dedicate a small portion of their projects to the individuals and families who struggle to secure affordable housing, we will not solve the housing crisis plaguing our great City.

I look forward to working with you, governmental partners, non-profit housing providers and community stakeholders to develop a long-term solution to address our City's homeless crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Velmanette Montgomery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District