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*PRESS RELEASE*

**Housing First! Congratulates Mayoral Candidate Bill Thompson on Affordable Housing Plan**

*Coalition of Community Groups, Businesses and Housing Experts Congratulate Bill Thompson on Issuing 120,000 Unit Affordable Housing Development Plan*

New York, NY- Housing First! congratulates Mayoral Candidate Bill Thompson for releasing affordable housing plan. “Affordable housing is clearly an important priority for New York City now and in the future. I congratulate Bill Thompson for giving serious thought to this issue and hope we can continue to keep affordable housing at the forefront of the discussion around the City’s next administration,” said Co-Chair Todd A. Gomez, Senior Vice President, Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

“The 50,000 New Yorkers seeking refuge in the City’s homeless shelters each night demonstrate how important it is for the next mayor to embrace a comprehensive housing development plan that addresses all aspects of New York’s worsening affordability crisis. The Thompson plan is a great first step. We look forward to working with candidate Thompson to flesh out his plan to ensure that it includes supportive and senior housing and other housing models that save taxpayers’ money by reducing use of shelters and other expensive emergency interventions,” said Ted Houghton, Housing First! Co-Chair and Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York.

The Thompson plan addresses both new construction and preservation, while trying to make the most out of resources like public land. The plan does not specify affordability levels, which is an important factor in determining the cost of the plan. Contrary to common belief, developing housing affordable to middle-income families requires *more* public subsidies than building housing for low-income families since there are tax credits and other federal programs targeting the latter.

“We look forward to learning more about the Thompson plan and are ready to put the expertise of Housing First! to use incorporating off-budget solutions achieved through reforms to inclusionary zoning and tax incentives, as discussed in the Housing First! report,” said Rachel Fee, Coordinator of the Housing First! campaign.

Housing First! has reached out to each mayoral candidate to discuss affordable housing in a series of policy meetings scheduled for July, where experts will outline the Housing First! report *Building Stronger 2014-2021: What the Next Mayor Can Do to Address New York City’s Housing Crisis*. This **\$8 billion** plan, endorsed by more than **100 organizations**, to create and

preserve **150,000 units** of affordable housing over the next **8 years** reflects an informed consensus of affordable housing leaders and stakeholders. The Housing First! platform offers achievable policy recommendations and a concrete framework to increase affordability, reduce homelessness and expand economic opportunity through capital investment in a seven-point plan.

Housing First! is a broad and diverse affordable housing coalition, unlike any other in New York. Founded in 2001, disparate community, business, labor, civic and religious organizations of that time successfully created a consensus plan that influenced Mayor Bloomberg to commit to the celebrated New Housing Marketplace Plan. “Housing First! intends to have the same catalyzing effect on the next administration,” said Rachel Fee, Coordinator of the Housing First! campaign.