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***PRESS RELEASE***

**Housing First! Congratulates Mayoral Candidate Sal Albanese on Ambitious Affordable Housing Plan**

*Coalition of Community Groups, Businesses and Housing Experts Congratulate Sal Albanese on Issuing 210,000 Unit Affordable Housing Development Plan*

New York, NY- Housing First! applauds Mayoral Candidate Sal Albanese for releasing an affordable housing plan. “I congratulate Sal Albanese for releasing such an ambitious and far reaching plan. Without a new commitment to investment in affordable housing from our next mayor, production will drop by 75%, based on current capital budget projections. Letting production slide would be a big mistake, not only for the New Yorkers in desperate need of housing but also for the local economy,” said Co-Chair Todd A. Gomez, Senior Vice President, Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

“Sal Albanese calls for 20,000 units of supportive housing, which would go a long way to providing solutions for the 50,000 homeless New Yorkers sleeping in our shelters tonight. Mr. Albanese also commits to working with Governor Cuomo to launch a NY/NY IV agreement to provide services critical to the success of supportive housing initiatives. I congratulate Mr. Albanese for proposing to invest in supportive housing and other policies 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 Albanese plan to develop 120,000 new construction units and preserve another 90,000 existing units includes 20,000 supportive and 12,000 senior homes, while reforming zoning and tax incentives and paying special attention to problems at NYCHA.

“I really like Sal Albanese’s plan for a NYCHA Community Budget to empower residents and give them a say in shaping their environment. The candidate’s plan is more ambitious than the Housing First! plan in terms of production targets but financing affordable housing is complicated and relies heavily on federal bonds and tax credits which aren’t that easy for a mayor to control. Housing First! strongly favors producing even more affordable units and we hope our next mayor will be an advocate for increasing resources in Albany and Washington,” said Rachel Fee, Coordinator of the Housing First! campaign.

Housing First! met with 8 mayoral candidate to discuss affordable housing in a series of policy meetings scheduled last month, where experts outlined 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 **140 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! established a framework for investment and policy improvements, which will aid our next mayor in creating a legacy-making affordable housing plan to benefit all of New York. We are thrilled that candidates are coming out with their own plans and incorporating our ideas. It just shows that affordability is a key issue for many voters this year and candidates are paying attention,” said Rachel Fee, Coordinator of the Housing First! campaign.