

# ANTHONY MIRANDA

FOR QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT 2020



## HOUSING IS A RIGHT

### Expanding Public Housing

- We must demand better housing conditions for those living in NYCHA developments, along with creating and expanding options for affordable housing.
- It will cost [\\$31.8 billion](#) to remedy the conditions and restore the New York City Housing Authority's infrastructure to good working order, as its residents are plagued with leaky roofs, mold, broken elevators and faulty heating systems.
- Neither the [state](#) or [federal](#) governments are willing to provide the funding for this undertaking.
- We support the efforts of Queens' Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders to pass [The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act](#), which would commit up to \$180 billion over 10 years to upgrade 1.2 million federally administered homes, including NYCHA.
- The Act would also remove any caps to building public housing, allowing us to expand our housing stock and house more families in need.

- ***Queens and New York City cannot fix NYCHA on its own, and we will build a coalition to bring better affordable housing to Queens!***

### **Housing, not Warehousing! Bringing Affordable Housing to Queens and Solving the Homelessness Crisis**

- [New York City spent \\$1.8 billion in 2018 on operating its shelter system. In the next ten years, the city will allocate another \\$650 million in capital funding allocated to upgrade and expand the system.](#)
- While the city's homeless shelters have reached a record high of 60,000 occupants, federal data shows New York's homeless population to be [at nearly 80,000 people](#). These numbers do not include other residents living on the street, "doubling-up" with their families or friends, or are in other living situations but don't have permanent housing.
- ***Unless we make affordable housing available, the number of homeless residents and our spending on homelessness will only increase.***
- In 2015, Picture the Homeless released their [Banking on Vacancy report](#), which found that ***Queens had enough vacant lots and buildings to house almost 33,000 people. In New York City these vacancies can house almost 200,000 people, which is more than enough to house every homeless person in New York City.***
- City Council passed and Mayor de Blasio signed the [Housing Not Warehousing Act](#) in [late 2017](#), which
  - Created a mandatory registry for all landlords holding their property vacant
  - Mandated an annual count of all vacant property in New York City
  - Compiles a list of all city, state, federally, and authority-owned vacant property suitable for the development of affordable housing and community land trusts, and recommend paths towards bringing these units to occupancy for affordable housing when possible.
- ***Working with these efforts and laws, we will work in coalition with housing rights advocates and elected officials to ensure the creation of affordable housing***
- The funding for shelters can and must be moved into housing, especially city tax levy funds and capital funding for shelters.
- We will advocate to ensure empty units and spaces are converted to affordable housing and expand the rent stabilization system to cover all New York apartments so no tenant is suddenly evicted from their homes.
- ***We will work to end the shelter system as we know it. No one should be homeless or struggling to pay their rent in one of the richest cities in the world.***

### **Promoting Community Land Trusts, Homeownership and Tenant Protections**

- ***Community land trusts can give the people of Queen's community control and ownership of affordable housing, community gardens, civic buildings, commercial spaces, and other community assets.***
- This nonprofit structure of ownership will help ensure that rents and housing will remain permanently affordable and accessible for the Queens community.

- ***We will work with the city to prioritize community land trusts, HDFCs, and low and middle-income families and parties to benefit from empty land and foreclosed and city-owned properties that can be developed by New York City Economic Development Corporation.***
- We will advocate to expand the rent stabilization system to cover all New York apartments, so no tenant is suddenly evicted from their homes.
- We will work to end predatory rezonings by the city, which has targeted low and middle-income neighborhoods and exacerbated displacement and gentrification
- We will instead promote rezoning and making habitable sparsely populated areas in Queens, such as areas formerly or still used for industry.
- ***We will then work to dismantle the Queens Democratic establishment that has allowed its [members](#) and [their associates](#) to financially benefit from foreclosures in Queens and all over New York State. We will work to provide affordable housing to Queens residents, and not get rich off their struggles!***