



PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Letitia James

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Press Release

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Public Advocate Letitia James Commends Progressive Preliminary Budget: ‘Our City Must Remain Affordable, So the Middle Class Can Thrive’

Calls for Expansion of School Meals to Include Breakfast in the Classroom, Increased Funding for Rape Crisis Centers, Extended Day Care In City Shelters

(New York, NY)— In response to Mayor Bill de Blasio’s FY 2016 Preliminary Budget proposal, New York City Public Advocate Letitia James released the following statement:

“As we seek to effectively combat income inequality, and expand the middle class, I commend Mayor de Blasio for proposing a progressive preliminary budget that makes the correct investments in a number of areas including city ambulances and EMS dispatchers, Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) and after-school programs, and bullet-proof vests for police officers.

I urge the mayor and the city council to renew in-school dental clinics and expand them to include vision and hearing screenings. Let’s also build on the Universal School Lunch program we introduced last year and expand breakfast consumption for public school students.

New York City is moving in the right direction but we can’t go at it alone. In areas like education, the state must finally meet its obligations and ensure that the city is no longer shortchanged. The state can start by reaching the education funding levels mandated by the Campaign for Fiscal Equity ruling,” said **New York City Public Advocate Letitia James**.

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