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Mayor Bloomberg Hosts Ladders for Leaders 2011 Graduation

On Monday, August 8th, 2011, Mayor Bloomberg recognized 216 New Yorkers ages 16-21 at Gracie Mansion during the celebration of their completion of the NYC Ladders for Leaders 2011 program. Graduates of the program celebrated the close of their seven-week paid summer internships at prestigious corporate, nonprofit, and government sector offices. Many received free, customized SAT and college preparatory courses, and all eligible graduates will receive partial college scholarships to help pay for their tuition.

Winners of this year's American Airlines College Tour Competition were also announced. The competition awards Ladders for Leaders graduates with a pair of round-trip tickets to visit colleges and universities across the continental United States. In the coming months, Natalia Bikowski, Bernice Chan, Jessamine Fazli, Yan Jun Kym, Daniel Pena, Marisch Perera, Tamara Taylor McDonald, and Jieying Wu will travel with their parent or guardian to visit universities across the United States, such as Northwestern University, Stanford University, Spellman College, UCLA, Williams College, Harvard University, Middlebury College and Texas Southern University, to name a few.

Over 1,000 Ladders for Leaders members, mostly inner-city New York City youth, have graduated from the program, which is now in its sixth consecutive year, and have gone on to attend college. Some alumni from our inaugural class of '06 have also been hired for full-time employment upon their graduation from college by their previous internship employers.

Created in 2005 as a joint initiative of the NYC Commission for Women's Issues (CWI) and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), NYC Ladders for Leaders seeks to educate high school and college students about the importance of higher education and goal setting in hopes of helping motivated, talented, and diverse students become future professionals with successful careers. The program is funded entirely through the contributions of private sector sponsors whose donations support participants' salaries, customized SAT and college prep courses, leadership workshops, and partial college scholarships.

To read more about the 2011 Ladders for Leaders program and to find out how to get involved with the 2012 program, visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/cwi/html/programs/ladders.shtml>. Applications for the 2012 program will become available starting this fall, so check back often if you are interested in applying!

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Mayor Bloomberg Announces Judge Ronald E. Richter as Commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services

On July 27, 2011, Mayor Bloomberg announced the appointment of Judge Ronald E. Richter as Commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) after 20 years of distinguished experience in the area of child services. Judge Richter served as Deputy Commissioner for ACS under outgoing Commissioner John Mattingly and oversaw ACS alongside Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Linda I. Gibbs at City Hall.

Having been appointed to the bench in 2009 by Mayor Bloomberg, Judge Richter adjudicated various custodial, neglect, and child abuse cases, further adding to his breadth of experience in child protective roles. Mayor Bloomberg made the announcement at City Hall where he was joined by Deputy Mayor Gibbs, Commissioner Mattingly and child welfare providers and advocates.

Judge Richter has served as a Family Court Judge since January 2009, where he advocated the expedited attention for legal matters pertaining to children and

families, and also led programs such as the Queens Child Protective Initiative to coordinate efforts to move children out of foster care to a permanent home. In 2005, Commissioner Mattingly appointed Judge Richter as Deputy Commissioner of ACS, where he was instrumental in implementing systemic reforms in the areas of child safety data and child protection. Working with Deputy Mayor Gibbs and Commissioner Mattingly, Judge Richter also worked with the Mayor's Interagency Task Force on Child Welfare and Safety.

Judge Richter earned his B.A. from Tufts University, his M.S. from Boston University College of Communications and his J.D. from Boston University school of Law.

[Find more information on the Administration for Children's Services.](#)

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Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor Steel, Housing Commissioner Wambua and HDC President Jahr Announce New York City Has Reached Major Milestone in Affordable Housing Plan

More than 15,800 Units Financed in FY 2011 Brings Housing Plan Tally to 124,510 Affordable Homes - More than Three-Quarters of the Way Toward Goal

Mayor Bloomberg's affordable housing plan, the New Housing Marketplace Plan, is being applauded by city officials after having hit a major milestone in its progress. The plan is now three-quarters of the way towards completing its goal of constructing 165,000 units of affordable housing by the end of 2014. After investing \$1.3 billion and financing 15,827 housing units for middle-class and low-income New Yorkers for the 2011 Fiscal Year, the City surpassed its goal by 1,100 units. New York City and its partners have funded 124,495 units of affordable housing across the five boroughs, and the New Housing Marketplace Plan projects to create approximately 150,000 full-time jobs in the areas of construction and related industries, with 120,000 full-time jobs created to date.

This milestone is a huge step in the right direction for women and families seeking affordable housing throughout New York City. To read more about this plan and its accomplishments, visit [New Housing MarketPlace Plan](#).

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In Other News:

Mandatory Sex-Ed for NYC Students

Sex education is once again part of the curriculum in New York City for students in middle or high school in the five boroughs. Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott said he considers sex education a crucial part of a complete education. Parents will have the right to keep their kids out of the lessons on birth control.

Marriage Equality in New York State

The first day of Marriage Equality in New York State saw much celebration as hundreds of same sex couples made history having their unions recognized by the State. A record-setting 659 couples were married, with 484 couples served by State Court Judges throughout New York City who volunteered their time to take part in the historic events. New York City Clerk's offices in all five boroughs were open for a full day of business on Sunday, July 24th, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, in which all couples who wished to be served that day were accommodated accordingly. 659 marriage licenses were issued with 511 couples having at least one spouse from New York City.

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About the NYC Commission on Women's Issues

The New York City Commission on Women's Issues (formerly the Commission on the Status of Women) was established by Mayoral Executive Order in 1975 as an advisory body to the Mayor on matters impacting the lives of New York City women. Currently, the Commission serves as an important vehicle through which women and families can connect with City services that support and address their needs.

We hope this newsletter will be an extension of this work. Not only will we share the newest initiatives and programs coming out of the City, but we will also help you understand how these efforts affect you as a woman.

For more information on our key programs such as the NYC Women's Resource Network, the Mentor it Forward, and the NYC Ladders for Leaders program, please visit www.nyc.gov/women to find out how you could benefit and/or participate today!

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Women's Issues

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