Housing New York

How to Achieve Affordability in Urban Centers

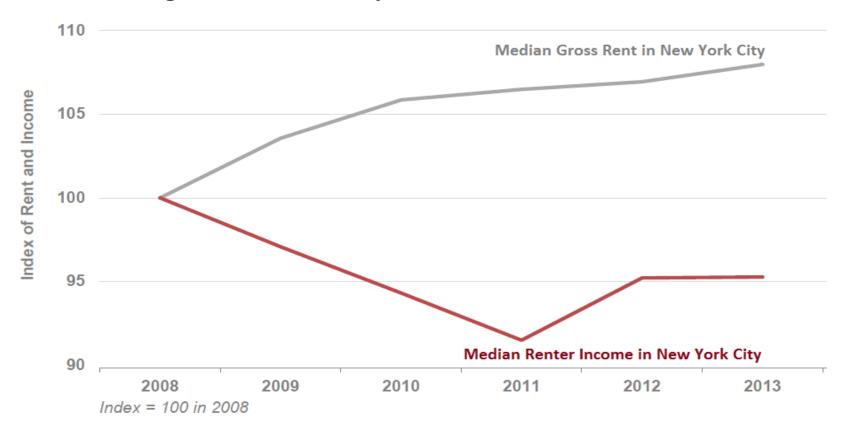
James Patchett, Chief of Staff, Deputy Mayor for Housing & Economic Development, New York City

October 7, 2015



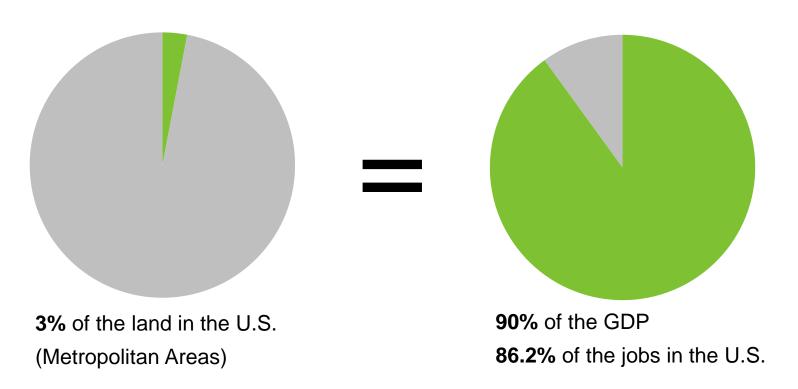
Cities Face a Common Challenge: ↑ Desirability = ↓ Affordability

- For the first time since the 1920s, American cities are growing faster than their suburban counterparts...
- ...But the pattern of declining incomes and rising rents underscores the need for greater affordability in urban cores



Achieving Affordability

- We cannot control many factors that impact affordability: federal government, interest rates, global labor markets, etc...
- ...But we can approach land-use and development regulations <u>more</u>
 <u>creatively</u> to build on the success of our cities



Size Matters

 Reducing unit sizes by 25% could decrease total development costs per unit by 15% and increase NOI to allow deeper affordability

| Value | Standard Size Unit | Reduced Size Unit | % Change |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Avg Unit Size | 720 SF | 540 SF | (25%) |
| Residential SF | 72,000 SF | 72,000 SF | 0% |
| # of Units | 100 | 130 | 30% |
| Rent / Unit / Year | \$32,400 | \$32,400 | 0% |
| Residential Income | \$3,078,000 | \$4,001,400 | 30% |
| Add'l Income / Unit | NA | \$592 | 23% |
| Avg Monthly Rent | \$2,565 | \$1,973 | (23%) |
| Total Cost PSF | \$485 | \$534 | 10% |
| Total Cost 90K BSF | \$43,650,000 | \$48,015,000 | 10% |
| Total Cost / Unit | \$436,500 | \$369,346 | (15%) |

More Density, Less Parking

- Fewer parking requirements could substantially reduce development costs and allow deeper affordability and/or require less subsidy
 - Most outer-borough and upper Manhattan areas still require developers to build roughly one off-street parking space for every two housing units
 - Cost is passed onto renters, adding \$100-\$300 to monthly rent
 - New York City has proposed eliminating parking requirements within a half mile of transit as part of a recent zoning text amendment

| Hypothetical Project | WITH Parking | NO Parking | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| # of Housing Units | 100 units | 100 units | |
| Off-Street Parking Spaces | 50 spaces | 0 spaces | |
| Cost of Parking (\$50K / Space) | \$2,000,000 | \$ - | |
| Monthly Debt Service | \$143,750 | \$134,250 | |
| Annual Rent / SF for 1.2x DSCR | \$32,400 | \$30,960 | |
| Monthly Rent Equivalent | \$2,700 | \$2,580 | |

Location Affordability

Affordability encompasses more than just housing

 When transportation costs are considered, NYC, which has the lowest annual transportation costs than its peer group, is relatively affordable

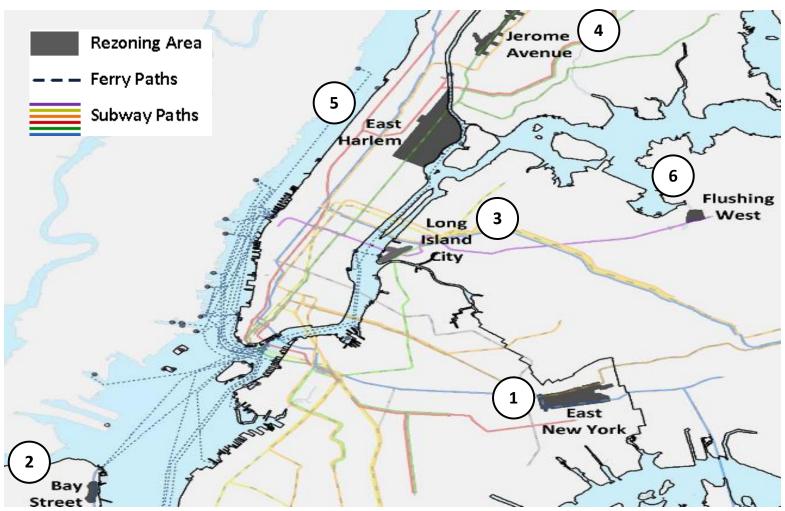
| | City | Annual Rent * | Annual / Monthly Transport Cost | Annual Total | Monthly Total | % of Income |
|-----|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Washington DC | \$16,200 | \$8,300 / \$692 | \$24,500 | \$2,042 | 29% |
| 2. | San Francisco | \$17,000 | \$6,787 / \$566 | \$23,787 | \$1,982 | 31% |
| 3. | New York City | \$14,700 | \$5,725 / \$477 | \$20,425 | \$1,702 | 32% |
| 4. | Philadelphia | \$13,200 | \$6,083 / \$507 | \$19,283 | \$1,607 | 33% |
| 5. | Chicago | \$13,200 | \$7,500 / \$625 | \$20,700 | \$1,725 | 33% |
| 6. | Seattle | \$13,600 | \$8,200 / \$683 | \$21,800 | \$1,817 | 34% |
| 7. | Boston | \$16,000 | \$7,500 / \$625 | \$23,500 | \$1,958 | 35% |
| 8. | San Jose | \$18,120 | \$11,217 / \$935 | \$29,337 | \$2,445 | 35% |
| 9. | Dallas | \$11,500 | \$8,900 / \$742 | \$20,400 | \$1,700 | 36% |
| 10. | Houston | \$11,000 | \$9,100 / \$758 | \$20,100 | \$1,675 | 37% |

^{*} Annual rent for a 2.7-person household.

<u>Source</u>: http://www.cbcny.org/sites/default/files/REPORT HousingAffordabilityVsLocation 08122014.pdf . Numbers are rounded.

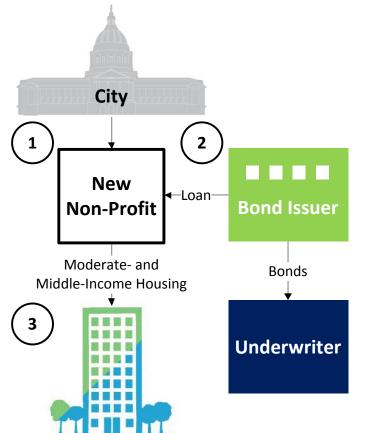
Location Affordability, Continued

 To support location affordability, NYC announced rezonings around major transportation hubs in six neighborhoods planned for growth



New Financing Model for Middle-Income Housing

We can provide more middle-income housing with less subsidy



- A tax-exempt vehicle could be
 established to finance affordable housing
 using 501(c)(3) bonds
- 2 A bond issuer (e.g. HDC) would issue 501(c)(3) bonds to provide tax-exempt financing to the new non-profit
- The non-profit owner would apply proceeds to finance moderate- and middle-income housing
- Use of 501(c)(3) bonds would preserve private activity volume cap for low-income projects while reducing subsidy for middle-income projects

New Financing Model for Middle-Income Housing, Continued

- Hypothetical 90,000 SF 100-Unit Development (72,000 Residential SF)
 - In a traditional interest rate environment, tax-exempt financing alone (without tax credits) is worth over \$550 per month in rent
 - When combined with free land, development in NYC is feasible at rents of \$2,000 - \$2,500 without subsidy

| Summary | Taxable Rate | Tax-Exempt Rate | Tax-Exempt Rate & Free Land |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Acquisition Cost | \$12,600,000 | \$12,600,000 | \$ - |
| Construction Costs | \$31,050,000 | \$31,050,000 | \$31,050,000 |
| Total Development Cost | \$43,650,000 | \$43,650,000 | \$31,050,000 |
| Monthly DS: 100% LTC | \$241,070 | \$193,600 | \$137,720 |
| Annual Rent/SF for 1.2x DSCR | \$65 | \$56 | \$44 |
| Monthly Rent | \$3,900 | \$3,330 | \$2,660 |
| Monthly DS: 60% LTC | \$144,620 | \$116,150 | \$82,620 |
| Annual Rent/SF for 1.2x DSCR | \$46 | \$40 | \$33 |
| Monthly Rent | \$2,740 | \$2,400 | \$2,000 |

Expanding the Tent

 With no easy solutions to housing affordability, collaboration between government and the private sector is essential

