



ACTION ALERT

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A non-profit tax-exempt organization representing New York City's community-based mental health sector.

February 25, 1999

NY/NY II Fax Zap Time

What's Happened:

- **Nearly one hundred delegates attended last week's Kick-Off Rally for the grassroots campaign.** Delegates from several dozen mental health programs, New York/New York facilities, and homeless shelters attended last week's Kick-Off Rally for the grassroots campaign. City Councilmember Una Clarke, the chair of the Subcommittee on Mental Health, announced that the Council was planning a resolution in support of a second NY/NY Agreement. And Assemblymember Scott Stringer, in a rousing speech, also pledged his support for a second multi-year agreement. Several grassroots supporters also gave powerful speeches. J.J. Perry, a resident of the Wards Island Men's Shelter, talked about the hardships of the homeless shelter system. And Francis Olivero of the Fountain House advocacy committee urged the delegates to spread the word about the campaign throughout their organizations. Thanks to everyone who attended the rally!
- **Campaign representatives testified at Albany budget hearings, urging the State Legislature to provide second-year funding for New York/New York II.** Representatives from the Campaign testified at joint mental health budget hearings in Albany on February 10th. Steve Coe, the executive director of Community Access and chair of the Campaign, urged State legislators to include second-year funding for NY/NY II housing in the budget. Anthony Scaffidi, a NY/NY tenant of Ivan Shapiro House who has spoken at several rallies for the grassroots campaign, also testified. His powerful testimony about the impact of NY/NY on his life was, by all accounts, the highlight of the budget hearing. Afterwards, Anthony was invited to lunch by several legislators and staff and continued to talk about the success of supportive housing.

Action Requested:

- **URGENT FAX ZAP TODAY!** Please distribute the attached fax zap to everyone in your organization TODAY and fax the two messages to the Majority Leader Bruno and Speaker Silver! **Remember, every message you send makes a difference!!!!**