



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Press Conference at Astoria Houses in Honor of Climate Week NYC to Celebrate Recovery and Relief Efforts in Astoria Queens**

**For Immediate Release: September 23, 2020**

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**Astoria, NY** – On September 25, 2020, Bishop Mitchell Taylor and Councilmember Costa Constantinides will gather to celebrate Climate Week NYC and hold a press conference to provide updates on relief, resiliency, and air quality as it relates to COVID-19 recovery efforts in Astoria, Queens. Run in coordination with the United Nations and the City of New York, Climate Week NYC continues to grow as the time and place for the world to showcase exceptional climate action and discuss how to do more in our communities.

Power plants in Astoria and Long Island City — nearby Astoria, Ravenswood, and Queensbridge New York City Housing Authority developments— produce poor air-quality in minority communities. The profound relation between climate justice and racial justice, mixed with pre-existing health conditions, resulted in minority communities being hit the hardest during COVID-19. As the focus shifts to how we rebuild after COVID-19, we celebrate efforts made thus far, highlight community partners' continued support and shed light on future growth for Astoria, including the expansion of the Astoria ferry route. The event will be followed by a food distribution for the residents of Astoria Houses, generously sponsored by Astoria North.

**WHAT: Press Conference at Astoria Houses in Honor of Climate Week NYC to Celebrate Recovery and Relief Efforts in Astoria Queens**

**WHERE: 8-25 Astoria Blvd, Astoria, New York 11102 - Corner of 8th and Astoria Blvd. Streaming Live on Facebook & Youtube - @UrbanUpboundNy**

**WHO: Bishop Mitchell Taylor, Co-Founder and CEO, Urban Upbound, Councilmember Costa Constantinides, Ms Claudia Coger, TA President of Astoria Houses, Anju Rupchandani, Executive Director of Zone 126, Andre Stith, Zone 126**

**WHEN: Friday, September 25, 2020**

**TIME: 12:00 pm**



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**About Bishop Mitchell Taylor** - Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Urban Upbound. Bishop Taylor has lived in and around Queensbridge Houses most of his life. In 1987 under the direction of his Father the late Bishop Moses Taylor he founded Astoria Outreach Ministries in Astoria, New York, focusing primarily on the youth in Astoria Houses. In 1991 he was installed as Senior Pastor of the Center of Hope International (COHI), a non-denominational church adjacent to the Queensbridge Houses. In 2004, Bishop Taylor co-founded Urban Upbound, formerly known as the East River Development Alliance (ERDA). Bishop Taylor served as a commissioner on the Civilian Complaint Review Board and has been profiled by The New York Times, CNN, National Public Radio, and other leading media outlets for his leadership around public housing, and has received prestigious awards including the New York City Public Library's Brooke Astor Award, NYC Neighborhood Achievement Leadership Award, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York Martin Luther King Award. Bishop Taylor was also a participant in the United Way Executive Fellows Program and was chosen to participate in the highly competitive Achieving Excellence in Community Development program led by NeighborWorks and Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Bishop Taylor is the author of *Unbroken Promises*, published by Whitaker House (2003)