

WOODSIDE HERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

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FREE

CLOSING SCHOOLS DIGITAL DIVIDE

350,000 K-12 New York City Public Schools students will receive new internet-enabled devices for free during the 2025-2026 school year, as the Adams administration continues to bridge the digital divide and invest in a more affordable city for working-class New Yorkers. The 350,000 students across the nation's largest public school district will receive LTE or 5G connected Chromebooks with internet access and optimized educational programming to ensure they have the essential tools necessary to succeed in today's digital learning environment. The proactive, data-driven rollout of this program closes device access gaps in the most affordable way possible for working-class families and replaces outdated equipment that no longer meet current instructional and security standards, while ensuring students have keyboard-enabled devices vital for writing, researching, and completing class assignments. As part of the Adams administration's continuing efforts to bridge the digital divide, students will be able to use these cellular-connected devices to get online for free wherever they live.

The distribution of these Chromebooks was made possible by the Adams administration after the city came to an agreement with T-Mobile earlier this year to make them a major wireless carrier to support city operations while helping reduce the cost of wireless services for city government employees. As part of the agreement, the 350,000 devices being distributed to students will come equipped with T-Mobile LTE or 5G access.

Personal computer devices, such as Chromebooks, are a necessity, not a luxury, for today's public-school students and are essential to New York City Public Schools' foremost academic, accessibility, and equity goals. The rollout of 350,000 devices over the coming months will focus on meeting the needs of students who require keyboard-equipped devices for academic instruction and assessments. Regular device usage will prepare students with 21st-century skills, including typing, online research, and responsible internet use.

The Chromebooks will support Google Workspace, New York City Public Schools-approved apps, and state assessment platforms — all of which are central to the school system's digital curriculum. Devices will allow seamless learning between school and home, regardless of students' locations. This will be particularly important for students in temporary housing or those living in under-connected communities where home access to a computer may be limited. An estimated 31 percent of Bronx households — the highest of any borough — lack access to a household computer.



All Chromebooks will be configured and enrolled using Google Management Console, which applies New York City Public Schools enterprise settings to ensure secure, standardized access across all devices. Key applications pre-loaded on devices will include:

- * Google Workspace for Education: Features widely used programs across New York City Public Schools for instruction, assignments, collaboration, and communication.

- * TeachHub: New York City Public Schools' secure, single sign-on portal for students, teachers, and staff — providing centralized access to digital learning applications, instructional resources, announcements, and integrated tools like Google Classroom, Clever, and iLearnNYC.

- * iLearnNYC: Provides access to digital curriculum materials, personalized learning platforms, and New York City Public Schools-approved content aligned to standards.

Devices will come equipped with T-Mobile LTE or 5G access as part of the city's agreement with T-Mobile earlier this year to become a major wireless carrier to support city operations. In addition to providing students internet access on these Chromebooks, the agreement with T-Mobile saves city taxpayers millions of dollars over the course of the five-year deal on city-issued devices and puts money back into the pockets of the city workforce by offering discounted personal plans through T-Mobile. The partnership also ensures that city employees have access to cutting-edge technology and reliable service to best serve their fellow New Yorkers.

LTE and 5G connected Chromebooks in students' homes also means that more New Yorkers will receive dependable internet access — an essential resource to fully participate in modern life.

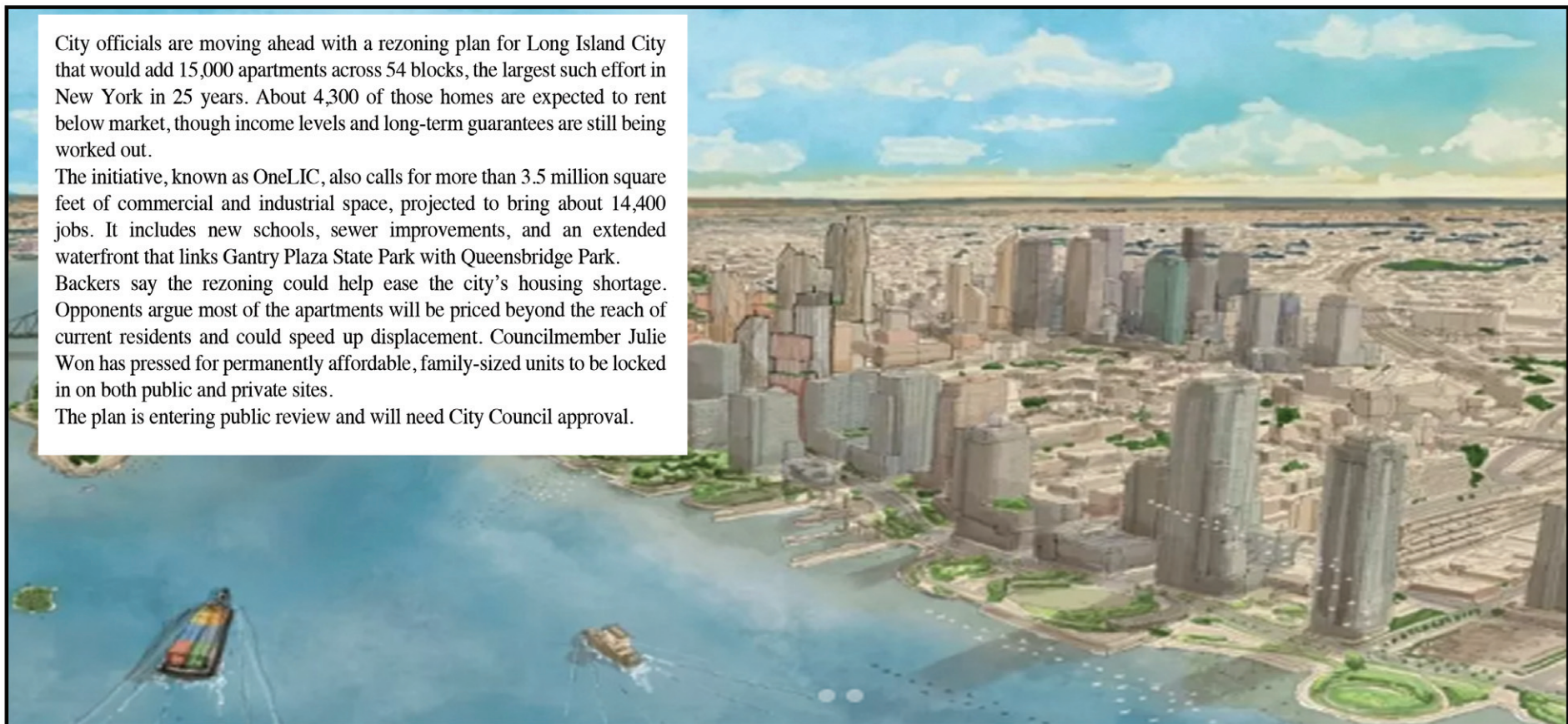
REZONING PLAN TARGETS LONG ISLAND CITY

City officials are moving ahead with a rezoning plan for Long Island City that would add 15,000 apartments across 54 blocks, the largest such effort in New York in 25 years. About 4,300 of those homes are expected to rent below market, though income levels and long-term guarantees are still being worked out.

The initiative, known as OneLIC, also calls for more than 3.5 million square feet of commercial and industrial space, projected to bring about 14,400 jobs. It includes new schools, sewer improvements, and an extended waterfront that links Gantry Plaza State Park with Queensbridge Park.

Backers say the rezoning could help ease the city's housing shortage. Opponents argue most of the apartments will be priced beyond the reach of current residents and could speed up displacement. Councilmember Julie Won has pressed for permanently affordable, family-sized units to be locked in on both public and private sites.

The plan is entering public review and will need City Council approval.



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HOW YOU CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER

by Stan Popovich

Professionals in leadership roles should take the time to improve their relevant skills and adjust their style to suit the needs of their teams. Here are the qualities of a good leader:

- 1. Know yourself:** Leaders understand themselves and what they offer to the organization. Each leader has a distinctive style, and each leader recognizes that they may need to make changes in a way that reflects their style. Learning how to take and seek feedback from others is essential for developing as a leader.
- 2. Communicate on a regular basis:** Start any discussion with what’s most important at hand, making sure that others understand the context of the conversation so that they can follow up with any questions. Communicate upfront about what you expect from your team. It is important that everyone is on the same wavelength.
- 3. Learn to listen:** Active listening helps build rapport and create stronger relationships. Be focused on what others are saying. Criticism doesn’t have to be negative and, when handled appropriately, it can have a positive impact on professional growth.
- 4. Be decisive:** Every situation has potential solutions, and when it comes time to make a final decision, you should be confident in your ability to guide the team toward the proper outcome. Effective leaders do not hesitate when it comes time to act or make these impactful decisions.
- 5. Put people first:** By taking the time to know your team and understand their individual work styles, goals, and personalities, you will develop better strategies for management and create an environment in which your team feels heard, respected, and cared for. Recognize everyone’s contributions and accomplishments and look for opportunities that can help your employees.
- 6. Set goals:** Setting goals is crucial because they provide a clear direction for your team, fosters motivation, and accountability. Goals also enable you to measure progress, adapt to changing circumstances, and ultimately drive the organization towards achieving its vision.
- 7. Know when to delegate:** As an effective leader, it’s important to know when to delegate tasks, and when to complete them yourself. Assigning responsibilities in this way will allow you to decrease your workload, which helps you focus on the most crucial tasks you need to complete.
- 8. Stay on top of things:** Do what you can today. You never know when something may come up that might need your immediate attention. Being efficient can prevent future business problems.
- 9. Adapt to change:** The ability to adapt is crucial for effective leadership. Practical implementation involves actively seeking out changes in the industry, technology, or market trends and adjusting strategies and processes. As a leader, you should encourage a culture of resilience within your team by embracing change as an opportunity for growth.
- 10. Track your progress:** Learn from your past mistakes. Reflecting on your past experiences can reveal knowledge that can be applied to your position as a leader. Every mistake can be turned into a learning opportunity if you take the time to find the lesson. Understanding how something went wrong will better equip you for handling similar situations in the future.

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GOLDILOCKS AND THE BEARS

by Rix Quinn

What’s the real meaning of the fairy tale about Goldilocks? To be frank (although Frank is not my name), “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” is more confusing than a stop sign on a roller coaster track. You gotta accept that a bear family owns a fancy two-story deep in the woods. These beasts wake one morning, choose porridge instead of other animals, then go for a walk while it cools. Obviously, rich bears buy quality products like silver claw clips, and expensive fur shampoos. So, why would they leave an unlocked door to tempt intruders? In walks Goldilocks, possibly a destructive truant with great curiosity, a huge appetite, and narcolepsy.

First, she samples some mismatched chairs. She finds one too hard, one too soft, and the third just right...so she breaks it. What is that about? Next, she tastes the first porridge, and finds it too hot. The second bowl’s too cold. Why? Who cooked this stuff, anyway? But the third bowl’s just right, so she devours it faster than a hyperactive cannibal gulps ladyfingers at a tea party. Bloated and sluggish, she wanders upstairs. She tries Mom’s and Pop’s twin beds, then passes out in Junior’s bunk.

About this time, the bears return. They find her asleep, shake her awake, and scare the heck out of her. She races out. The bears forget to get a name and address, so they can send a bill for the busted furniture. This story is too scary for me, because I fear any beast that considers me part of a food group.

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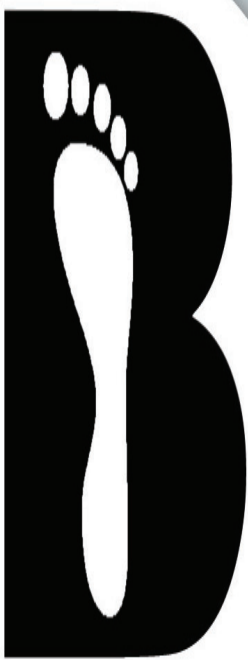
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