



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
Michael Gianaris

Statement from Senate Deputy Leader Gianaris on Hotel Conversion Bill Signing

MICHAEL GIANARIS June 7, 2022

| ISSUE: **HOUSING OUR NEIGHBORS WITH DIGNITY ACT, HOTEL CONVERSIONS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, TENANTS**



NEW YORK, N.Y. – Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris issued the following statement on Governor Hochul signing legislation to expand the Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity Act (HONDA) program, which converts financially-distressed hotels into affordable housing.

“This legislation builds upon the success of HONDA, which I was proud to author into law,” said **Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris**. “We will now have more opportunities to grow and expand this program to more neighborhoods, ensuring the construction of more affordable housing for New Yorkers. I thank everyone who helped make this possible, and look forward to more projects getting off the ground soon.”

HONDA funds the state purchase of financially-distressed hotels and commercial properties to create permanent affordable housing for homeless and housing-vulnerable New Yorkers. The properties would then be operated by non-profit housing providers. New York City currently has more than 50,000 people living in homeless shelters and countless others who are housing stressed. Senator Gianaris has secured over \$200 million in funding for this program since it was first enacted in 2021.

The HONDA program was supported by a wide variety of experts in the housing field, including advocacy groups like VOCAL-NY, the Community Service Society of New York, non-profit housing developer HousingWorks, the Strong Economy for All coalition, Neighbors Together, and other organizations.