NEW YORK, NY – February 6, 2015 – According to a New York Times editorial of February 7, 2014: “New York City stands at the epicenter of an affordable housing crisis that has placed poor and elderly people throughout the country at greater risk of homelessness and forced low-income renters to forgo food and medical care to stay in their homes.”

When Mayor Bill de Blasio took office in January 2014, he pledged to preserve or build 200,000 affordable housing units in the next 10 years. He reaffirmed the urgency of this commitment in his recent State of the City address. To explore the challenges, and opportunities, inherent in the administration’s housing plan and to follow up on their progress to date, The Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute at the Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, CUNY, will host a conference titled “Implementing Affordable: New York’s Affordable Housing Crisis,” on February 18, from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the William and Anita Newman Conference Center, 151 E. 25th St, Room 750, at Baruch College.

Senior participants from the de Blasio administration will address key components of the housing plan and the city’s changing demographics. A panel of housing and policy experts from the public and private sectors will discuss the housing response to these trends, the shape of the plan and the issues that must be addressed in order to achieve its ambitious goals. In addition, the appropriate balance between preservation and new construction, affordability income targets and major challenges of implementation, will be considered. The impact on housing affordability of both dedicated affordable housing units and new, market-rate housing units will be explored.

“The affordable housing crisis affects everyone from the very poor to the middle class, and is at the heart of the growing inequality we see across the city,” said HPD Commissioner Vicki Been. “The success of Mayor de Blasio’s Housing New York plan will require that everyone — city agencies, non-profit and for-profit developers, housing organizations, community groups, advocates, residents — come to the table and roll up their sleeves. Working together, we can ensure that New Yorkers across income levels are able to stay in their homes and in their neighborhoods.”

Key decision makers from government, industry, academic, and nonprofit sectors will speak, including: Vicki Been, Commissioner, New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development
Peter Lobo, Deputy Director Population Division, New York City Department of City Planning
Claire Haaga Altman, Director, Affordable and Supportive Housing Dev. Services, Capalino+Company
Richard Barth, Senior Advisor, Capalino+Company and Former Executive Dir., NYC Dept. of City Planning;
Charles Brass, Partner, Forsyth Street Advisors
Paul Freitag, Managing Director, Jonathan Rose Companies
Daniel Hernandez, Deputy Comm., Off. of Neighborhood Strategies, NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation & Dev.
Jolie Milstein, President and CEO, New York State Affordable Housing Conference
Howard Slatkin, Deputy Executive Director, Strategic Planning, New York City Department of City Planning

“This conference will provide a progress report on Mayor de Blasio’s initiative, which the most ambitious in the country, and will give attendees greater insights into the challenges of all the stakeholders,” said Jack Nyman, Executive Director of the Newman Institute. “There is a potential investment of $41 billion over a10-year period. Our aim is to create a vocabulary that all parties can use to continue working toward the Mayor’s affordable housing goal.”

PLEASE NOTE: The event is free and open to the public, but registration is a must. To register, visit http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/realestate/events/upcoming-events.html. For more information, call Sara Hilska Taylor at 646-660-6950 or email: sara.hilskataylor@baruch.cuny.edu.

About The Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute:
The Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute at Baruch College offers a wide range of educational and research opportunities to broadly address the needs of the real estate industry. The Institute is part of the Zicklin School of Business, the largest accredited collegiate school of business in the United States, and offers professional education courses and workshops to train current practitioners, as well as the next generation of real estate professionals, helping them succeed in, and contribute to, a dynamic and quickly evolving marketplace. As Executive Director of The Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute, Jack S. Nyman leads operations, strategic planning and industry partnering; and guides professional development and continuing education programming, topical research, symposia and public events. Under his direction, the Institute has achieved national recognition for providing cutting-edge programs to inform real estate asset managers on cost-effective strategies for portfolio optimization. Individuals, academics, students, corporations, nonprofits and government agencies all benefit from the programs offered by the Institute.

About Baruch College, City University of New York:
Baruch College is a senior college in the City University of New York (CUNY) with a total enrollment of more than 17,000 students, who represent 160 countries and speak more than 100 languages. Ranked among the top 15% of U.S. colleges and No. 5 as a public regional university, Baruch College is regularly recognized as being among the most ethnically diverse colleges in the country. As a public institution with a tradition of academic excellence, Baruch College offers accessibility and opportunity for students from every corner of New York City and from around the world. For more about Baruch College, go to http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/.

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