

NBC 4

Andrew Siff, 1.12.17

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WNBC-NY (NBC) - New York, NY

News 4 New York at 5



WNBC 01/12/2017 05:14:08 PM: ...yorkers can actually afford. that is the promise from mayor bill de Blasio. but can he really deliver? >> with the mayor's response to tough questions today, Andrew Siff? >> reporter: I'm just steps away from the apartments. the mayor said it is not just about building more apartments here but preserving the ones that are already here. they are fixing the windows at this apartment building and they're also fixing the rent. locking it in at \$1,000 per month so Jeanette Cruz's parents can stay. >> it is getting so expensive to live anywhere, especially for senior citizens. >> reporter: the city spent \$19 million to renovate 63 apartments here. but also freeze that rent for seniors. it is one-third of the \$3,000 average rent in booming Williamsburg. this chiropractor and his wife could no longer afford it. >> for my family, we had to move out of here. >> it's gotten so expensive here for people to live. it is insane. >> reporter: today the mayor assured neighbors -- >> this still is your city. >> reporter: Bill de Blasio insisting he's making good on a promise to build 200,000 amounts. I pushed the mayor one-on-one on whether this building makes a difference. >> how 63 amounts makes apartments makes a dent in the housing crisis. >> talking about a building that will guarantee affordable housing for seniors for 25 years. >> reporter: the mayor says his administration built 6,844 units this year, preserved more than 15,000, and they're on pace to keep his promise of 0 within ten years. >> numbers speak for themselves. we're ahead of pace and we intend to stay that way. >> reporter: "4 Investigates" got the mayor to acknowledge the housing crunch won't be solved any time soon. at the end of this time even if you meet your goal you will not have solved the crisis. >> I have said to myself many times that we need more than we can account for right now. but is the plan ambitious? it is exceedingly ambitious. >> reporter: the back live now in Williamsburg. tomorrow at East 163rd Street and Brooke Avenue is an empty lot now but they're breaking ground tomorrow on a new building with 300 new apartments. here are exclusive renderings obtained by "4 Investigates" for what will be the Bronx Commons. these will be new apartments and the majority of them will be affordable housing. that's another thing the mayor told me today, which is that it takes longer to build the new units. they had to work on the preservation component first. but they definitely plan to do more new construction in years ahead. wife in Williamsburg, Andrew Siff, News 4 New York. >>> vice president Joe Biden became tearful as the president ...