



Department of  
Taxation and Finance



## PRESS RELEASE

**Bishop Mitchell Taylor and Urban Upbound urge New Yorkers to take advantage of free tax preparation services before the April 18<sup>th</sup> filing deadline.**



Photo: (Left to Right) Edward Parenti, Dion Moore, Rev. Patrick H. Young, Bishop Mitchell Taylor, Darol Tucker, April Simpson Taylor, Claudia Coger

### For Immediate Release

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WHAT: Urban Upbound announced 12 Hour Free Tax Prep Marathon encouraging New Yorkers to file their taxes by April 18<sup>th</sup>.

WHERE: Urban Upbound's Free Tax Prep Site, 12-15 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101

WHEN: Monday, April 3, 2017

WHO: Urban Upbound CEO, Bishop Mitchell Taylor

Rev. Patrick Henry Young, First Baptist Church of East Elmhurst  
Edward Parenti, Senior Stakeholder Relationship Tax Consultant, Internal  
Revenue Service, US Department of the Treasury  
Darol Tucker, Brooklyn Local Taxpayer Advocate  
RA President Claudia Coger  
RA April Simpson Taylor  
TA Presidents, Religious Leaders, Community Leaders and Residents

**LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS** – Urban Upbound CEO and Co-Founder Bishop Mitchell Taylor was joined by Reverend Patrick H. Young, Resident leaders, non-profit partners and members of the community to urge low-income New Yorkers and NYCHA public housing residents to take advantage of the city’s free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites all around New York City. Free VITA sites enable qualified working families and individuals to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) both of which provide a particularly important lifeline in tough economic times. Urban Upbound has 26 tax sites in and around NYC and residents must call to make an appointment to receive free tax preparation. On the filing deadline – Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 9:00am to 9:00pm, Urban Unbound will hold its Third Annual 12 hour, Free Tax Preparation Services Marathon at their Long Island City Free Tax Prep VITA Site located at 12-15 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Long Island City, Queens –giving New York City’s low-income and public housing communities’ the opportunity to take advantage of these vital resources.

**Senator Michael Gianaris** said, “With tax season coming to an end, I encourage all those who have not filed their taxes to do so. With access to services such as “Free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance,” filling taxes is easy and affordable. I thank Urban Upbound for once again providing our community with tax preparation services.”

“As we approach the deadline, it is important that our residents receive the most up to date information as they prepare to file their taxes” said **Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan**. “Thank you to Bishop Taylor’s leadership and Urban Upbound for providing these very important services to our community.”

“This tax season, no one should leave money on the table,” said **New York City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer**. “Urban Upbound’s tax prep services help people file and save thousands every year. I am proud to support the work of Urban Upbound, and will help fight alongside them to provide residents of public housing neighborhoods the tools to achieve economic mobility to break cycles of poverty.”

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**About Urban Upbound** – Founded in 2004 by Bishop Mitchell G. Taylor, Urban Upbound breaks cycles of poverty in public housing neighborhoods by providing residents with the tools and resources needed to achieve economic mobility and self-sufficiency. Urban Upbound builds pathways out of poverty through an integrated approach that encompasses employment services, financial empowerment, youth services, and neighborhood revitalization anchored by the Urban Upbound Federal Credit Union. For more information, visit <http://urbanupbound.org>.

**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).