

Hostel Industry Leaders Lobby to Pass Hostel Bill And Bring \$400 Million in Tourism Revenue Back to the City

Hostelworld and Industry Advocates Visit New York City to Tour Potential Hostel Properties and Speak with Council Members

Dublin, Ireland — November 29, 2016 — [Hostelworld](#), the world's largest hostel booking platform, today announced that it will lead a delegation of hostel owners and executives from around the world on a visit to New York City to raise awareness about new legislation to reintroduce hostels to the Big Apple. This legislation would introduce a licensing scheme and regulations for the construction and operation of hostels and would help New York City gain over \$400 million in yearly tourism revenue it's currently losing.

Today, Hostelworld and executives from major hostel chains—including Generator CEO Fredrick Korallus and Meininger COO Eric Van Dijk—will meet with local council members to discuss Introduction 699-2015, the legislation in question. This legislation, sponsored by Council Members Margaret Chin and Jumaane Williams, Housing Committee Chair, was drafted by a Task Force created under the Bloomberg administration. This legislation was created in response to previous legislation, the Illegal Hotels Bill of 2010, which unintentionally shut down the hostel industry in New York City. Since that time, the hostel market has thrived in other parts of the world, leaving New York City behind.

"It's time to make hostel legislation a priority, and move this legislation forward so the hostel industry can thrive—a benefit to travelers and New York City's economy," said Feargal Mooney, Hostelworld CEO. "Hostels provide a unique experience that many of today's travelers seek. The hostels that currently exist in New York City operate under hotel regulations, which limits the capacity to deliver the unique hostel experience. More authentic, licensed hostels would bring travelers and revenue to the city. In fact, our analysis has shown that New York City is currently producing a third of the hostel revenue it should for a city of its size. The introduction of new regulations and licensing would close the gap."

During this visit, hostel industry executives will also tour locations throughout New York City's five boroughs where potential properties are being targeted for investment. Their trip will finish with meetings with the Partnership for New York City, New York City Economic Development Team, and the Real Estate Board of New York.

"The United States is a very popular destination for hostel travelers" said Jerry Kremer, Chairman of Empire Government Strategies. "Hostels offer a unique experience that cannot be replicated by other accommodations, so those hostel-travelers instead visit places with robust hostel markets like Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia. New York City is struggling to compete with other U.S. cities, and this legislation provides a great opportunity to recapture that lost revenue and bring more hostel travelers to the city."

Other markets in the United States have benefitted from the growth of hostels. In the last five years alone, Miami has added 226,000 annual bed nights with its new hostel properties, and Chicago has added 297,000 annual bed nights for travelers. European hostel brands like Generator have seen the demand for U.S. hostels rise, and have slated their first locations to open in 2017 in other major U.S. cities.

Hostels provide safe, affordable accommodations for young travelers looking for a “social travel” experience. This rising demographic of travelers looks to meet new people and make connections while traveling, and immerse themselves in the local culture. Hostelling is also a preferred method of travel for those traveling solo. More than seven in 10 U.S. hostel travelers and 62 percent of U.K. hostel travelers [journeyed alone](#) in the past year. If passed, Introduction 699 would bring hostels to the City and make it more accessible to [20 percent of the global travel population](#)—young adults from 18 to 35 years old.

About Hostelworld

[Hostelworld Group](#) is the leading global hostel-booking platform with Hostelworld, Hostelbookers and Hostels.com in its portfolio operating in 19 different languages. Connecting young travellers with hostels around the world, Hostelworld has over 8 million reviews across 33,000 properties in more than 170 countries. Hostelworld’s customers aren’t your average tourists; they crave experiences not souvenirs and want to be in the heart of the action. They want to Meet The World, and it’s the social nature of hostels that facilitates their travel adventures.

The Hostelworld Group went public in November 2015, listing on the main London and Dublin stock exchanges. Hostelworld has offices around the world in Dublin, London, Shanghai, Sydney and Seoul, and was recently recognised as a Best Workplace for 2016 by the Great Place To Work Institute.

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