

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

August 2018

CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV



Klitschko congratulates Ukrainians on Independence Day: Believe in yourself! Believe in Ukraine!

Klitschko congratulated Ukrainians on Independence Day. He posted a video with his congratulations to his Facebook account:

“What does it mean for me to live in an independent country? It means to live and work in my favourite city. To wake up thinking of the day ahead. To look forward to working together to improve our neighbourhood, our street or our city. To build a country we all are dreaming of. Step by step, by joint efforts.”

He emphasized that people do not cherish the most important things until they almost lose them. “The hardships befell our nation. For four years already we have been celebrating the Independence Day defending Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Our best patriots lose their lives. Ukraine keeps proving its independence and that it is worth the brightest future. And we are the ones who will have to build this future. We are the ones that love our country, do not give up and are committed to win! Believe in yourself! Believe in Ukraine! Happy Independence Day!”

Klitschko personally tests a public bicycle rental system

Vitali Klitschko attended the opening ceremony and personally tested a Bike Sharing programme launched in Kyiv. “Urban bicycling is associated with a personal mobility, comfort and environment friendliness. I think, plenty of people will switch from car to bicycle, to move freely around the city. And what is more important is that it is a very healthy choice. Besides, this initiative takes the tourists around our beautiful city and show them the sights,” pointed out the mayor.

Nextbike company, which is launching a pilot bike sharing project together with the city council, was founded in Leipzig in 2004. It operates public bike sharing schemes in over 150 cities and 25 countries worldwide. Bikes are equipped with built-in GPS trackers, to discover a bicycle’s location and last bike rider. Bicycles are available for rental via the Nextbike application at very flexible prices. “I am happy to see so much more biking in the city. And our priority now is to make Kyiv more bicycle-friendly! We are working to create efficient, safe, and viable bicycle network throughout the city,” emphasized Klitschko.



At the initial stage 33 stations will be set up in the most convenient locations nearby the Metro stations and the most popular destinations. Kyiv bike sharing program has 100 bikes in service, reaching 2,000 by the end of 2019. Additionally the city council will announce an investment competition to identify operator to install 300 more dock stations.

According to Kyiv Bicycle Master Plan, by 2020 the city will improve 64 urban streets to accommodate bicyclists, construct 3 high-speed cycle routes and bikes drop-off zones.

Klitschko: 3 schools and 8 kindergartens to open in Kyiv by the end of 2018



By the end of 2018 3 schools and 8 kindergartens will open in Kyiv - either newly built or newly reconstructed. “We are committed to preparing all educational facilities for back-to-school season. All schools and day childcare centres will be renovated to promote positive and effective educational environment for children,” said the mayor.

He reminded that the city council allocates significant budget funds for public education (13 billion hryvnas) and this brings results: over the last 4 years the number of children waitlisted for preschools fell by 12,6 thousand persons. This year there are 3,000 kids waitlisted for their nursery school. “There should not be a single child awaiting kindergarten admission in next few years,” stressed Klitschko.

According to the mayor, over the last 4 years the city council has opened 19 day childcare centres and 6 schools - all of them brand-new or newly renovated. “This year 11 more education facilities are undergoing reconstruction programs,” remarked Klitschko.

“We can boast renovated schools: the quality of construction or reconstruction, classroom and indoor athletic equipment, adjustable school desks and computers. All these facilities use the most energy efficient technologies. I am sure, Kyiv sets an example for all other cities - in Ukraine and even abroad. It accommodates all modern requirements of a school and a kindergarten,” emphasized Vitali Klitschko.

This year the reconstructed pre-schools will keep places open for 2,225 kids. About 34,000 first-graders will enter elementary school.

Klitschko unveils Illya Muromets monument: This is our own bohatyr, our own history that someone attempts to steal

Vitali Klitschko was on hand to officially unveil Illya Muromets monument in the capital city's Muromets park. "Illya Muromets was born not far from the city of Chernihiv, served in Prince Volodymyr's squad, defended the city of Kyiv and was buried in Kyivo-Pecherska Lavra. He is Ukrainian bohatyr. This is our own history that someone attempts to steal. The monument is erected in this historic site where a warrior outpost had once been located," remarked Klitschko.

Works on the monument and park landscaping were funded through private patronage. "I want to stress that the city council did not use public funds to pay for the bohatyr figure and the first portion of this beautiful park. This is a project financed with private donations by Kyiv philanthropists," assured the mayor.

The monument project is led by young Ukrainian sculptor Volodymyr Zhuravel and his team. Muromets' park, being developed on the archipelago of some islands in Desnyansky district, combines historical theme and contemporary approach. "It is my childhood dream - to stand close to modern strongmen. And I have never dared dream of molding a legendary bohatyr! This is a great responsibility," said Zhuravel at the unveiling ceremony.

The figure of Illya Muromets is modeled after Vasyl Virastyuk, one of the most famous strongmen in the world and the strongest person in Ukraine. "This site turns up your vibes! A camp of Ukrainian strongmen is located nearby. This place is full of energy: once Illya Muromets had been regaining strength here, now

it invigorates our modern bohatyrs," remarked Virastyuk.



The statue of Illya Muromets stands 11 meters tall - together with its pedestal on a hill. It is the first time 3D printing is applied to such a huge size sculpture. According to the mayor, the statue was divided into parts and each part was printed in parallel. "It had never happened in Ukraine and perhaps in the world that 3d printing was used to create such a large size

project. The sculptor Volodymyr Zhuravel has chosen the 3d printing as the best possible solution to apply, otherwise it would have taken a few years," told Vitali Klitschko.

Muromets' park will be disability-friendly, with comfortable sitting areas and bike routes. The park is designed to serve as a hosting site for a wide range of special cultural and city events.

Klitschko inspects ongoing reconstruction works in the Kyiv zoo

Together with Marc Damen, coordinator of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Vitali Klitschko inspected the reconstruction progress in the Kyiv zoo.

“Kyiv is a very hospitable city and there are plenty of places to visit. But we lack a zoo corresponding to European quality standards. The Kyiv zoo attracts increasingly more visitors. 750-800 thousand visitors are expected by the end of the year, but we aim to reach a million!” said Klitschko.

On his part Marc Damen remarked that EAZA is interested in further development of the Kyiv zoo, because the more zoos are involved into breeding endangered animals, the more efficiently they conserve wildlife diversity.

In 2007 the Kyiv Zoo was expelled from the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria over poor conditions and mistreatment of animals. To restore the EAZA permanent membership the zoo must undergo a massive reconstruction which is currently underway.

In July 2016 the mayor announced ambitious plans to improve and redevelop the capital city zoo, followed by the EAZA membership renewal. They will enable the zoo to participate in the international animal exchange and breeding programmes, and closely cooperate with the biggest zoos worldwide.



2018 Workout fest

Kyiv again brings together the legendary top athletes and Olympic champions for the 2018 Workout Fest. It features over 200 participants from across Ukraine and abroad.

“I am delighted that Kyiv hosts such sporting events, and legends of sports, Olympic champions and the world most-eminent workout athletes come together to the city,” remarked Vitali Klitschko.

This year Ukraine`s capital city has been honoured to host the UEFA Champions League final and the European mini-football championship which featured 20 international teams. The 56th WBC Convention will also be held in Kyiv this autumn. “Kyiv winning the title of Sports Capital comes from hosting such major sporting events. Kyiv is vigorous and good at sport. And these are not just fancy words,” said Klitschko.

The mayor thanked the World Street Workout and Street-lifting Federation for the leadership in wellness and fitness festival movement. “Over 2 million people worldwide quitted their bad habits thanks to these enthusiasts. This is a great job!” stressed Vitali Klitschko.

The leader of street workout international movement Denis Minin pointed out that Kyiv develops the city sports infrastructure in a systematic, consistent way. “I would like to say thank you to the mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko for cultivation of sport and active recreation. The city is not confined merely to support of such fitness events, it delivers sport and develops sporting infrastructure. Exemplary is Natalka park infrastructure with lots of free spaces to get a great workout,” told Minin.

Klitschko: Kyiv rises 13 places in the Economist's 2018 Global Liveability Ranking

The mayor of Kyiv commented on the results of the Economist's 2018 Global Liveability Ranking. According to him, the country's security situation plays a significant role in the concept of liveability. “Even though Kyiv lives in peace, there are the continuing hostilities 700 kilometers away. We have got used to living like this, but the Economist expert unit qualifies them as a threat to the best living conditions. The ranking reflects the experts` assessment of the situation in Ukraine in general,” remarked the mayor.

According to the Global Liveability Index 2018, Ukraine's capital city takes the 118th place and has registered a decline in its liveability score over the past 5 years since 2013 (by 12.6%). “I want to stress that Kyiv has climbed 13 positions over the past year when the city took the 131st place,” said Klitschko. “All this didn't discourage us from brilliantly hosting both the UEFA Champions` League final and the Eurovision contest and increasing flows of tourists,” said Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko called attention to the quote of the Economist experts who saw a notable increase. In their report the experts pointed out that “Over the last 12 months Kyiv has significantly improved its liveability owing to economic growth and political stability, even despite the Donbas conflict.”

The Global Liveability Index 2018 ranks the cities worldwide to form an assessment of the overall quality of living. Evaluated qualitative and quantitative criteria fall into 5 general categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. Though each category has its own impact rate, safety category is a key liveability measure in all communities and, according to experts, weights 25% of total.

Klitschko pays tribute to the late Senator John McCain: his life story would make many a good book

The mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko honoured the late Senator John McCain's at his memorial service at the Washington National Cathedral on Saturday. Both McCain family and the U.S. Senate invited Klitschko to remember the Senator. Family members and friends of John McCain, his 106-year-old mother, senators and Congress members, staff and global leaders attended the funeral remembrances . The ex-presidents George Bush Jr. and Barack Obama delivered the eulogies.

“John McCain was a man whose life story can inspire many a book - about his youth, military service and career in politics. He was a warrior, a true patriot, a man of high moral principles,” commented Klitschko to journalists. “By the way, few people knew about John McCain's love for boxing. He was instrumental in the passing of the so-called Muhammad Ali Act, a law designed to balance the leverages of boxers, promoters and managers. This law is very important and protects the rights of boxers. Senator often attended both my and Wladimir's fights,” said Vitali Klitschko.

He also emphasized his appreciation of both the political support and guidance of John McCain. “When I moved on after sports, he continued to support me also as a politician. I highly appreciate his counsel. Tips and ideas of an experienced political heavyweight are precious,” remarked Klitschko.

He pointed out that Ukraine lost a great friend who always believed in and backed our country. “His entire life he fought for democratic values. And we highly appreciate that during the Revolution of Dignity John McCain was together with us on Maidan and supported our aspirations for free and democratic society. The memory of him will always be in our hearts,” he said.



Before the ceremony at the National Cathedral Klitschko paused briefly to talk to the former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, the Special Representative of the U.S. State Department for Ukraine Kurt Volker, ex-mayor of New York City Rudolph Giuliani, the former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili and other politicians.