

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

August 2019

CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

Klitschko congratulates on Independence Day and shows how the city is transforming

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko congratulated all Ukrainians on Independence Day. In a video he posted on Facebook, he said “It’s Ukraine’s birthday today! Our independent, brave and talented country builds its future - in villages, towns and cities. Thousands of people’s efforts and doings are piecing together the jigsaw of changes.”

In a video he revealed some of Kyiv’s improvements: construction of the metro extension to Vinogradar, new kindergartens and schools, renovated clinics and maternity hospitals, massive road repairs and new bright LED streetlights. Among them are also the hugely popular pedestrian and cycle bridge linking Volodymyrska Hirka park and the Friendship of Nations Monument and Kyiv’s Montmartre - a spruced-up Artists Alley.

“Ukrainians proved that they can defend their dignity and freedom! And they continue to do so. They work and love their country. This is the reason Ukraine will win and become successful and powerful! Believe in yourself! Believe in Ukraine! Happy Independence Day!” emphasized Klitschko.



Kyiv recognized for its transparency

According Transparency International Ukraine, Kyiv entered top 6 most transparent European capitals for easily accessible information about public procurements, asset declarations of the city council members and completeness of data on the official city website.

“The Kyiv city government does everything to reach full transparency and openness. We launched Open Budget. All records of city council meetings, results of the city’s public procurements and bids, and other municipality’s information are freely available to the public,” said Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko. “Experts remarked the lack of information about mayor’s salary, though such data are being made public. Everyone can download pay slips of Kyiv mayor and deputies,” underlined Vitali Klitschko.

He added, that the city government puts much effort to implement a concept of transparency, openness and accountability to the city community by upgrading information access tools and improving record-keeping systems to ensure their availability.



In 2018 experts of Transparency International Slovensko conducted a transparency assessment of 26 capital cities on 14 indicators, including public procurements, city budget reports, minutes of the city council sessions and so on. Among the most transparent European capitals are Vilnius, Kyiv, Madrid, Prague, Pristina and Tallinn. Among the lowest-scoring cities are Athens, Belgrade, Yerevan, Sarajevo, Stockholm and Chisinau.

Transparency International Ukraine is an accredited chapter of the global movement Transparency International. Transparency International Ukraine has developed and is implementing the Transparency Ranking of the 100 Biggest Ukrainian Cities, annually analyzing cities measuring 91 indicators in 13 areas.

Klitschko raises national flag over city hall

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko hoisted the flag of Ukraine over the Kyiv city hall to mark National Flag Day. “Ukrainian flag is a national symbol which unites and inspires us to work for the country’s welfare, build together the country we all dream about. Our flag is a symbolic talisman that gives our defenders courage to battle for independence and freedom of the Ukrainian nation,” emphasized Klitschko.

He thanked the ATO veterans who traditionally took part in a flag-raising ceremony for their heroic feat in the east. He called on all attendees to keep a ceremonial silence to honour the fallen ATO servicemen and the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred.



Kyiv mayor also noted that the national flag is his personal talisman as well. “Ukrainian flag is flown in every city and village of our country and also across the whole world: when our students win the international competitions, when Ukrainian athletes win gold at world championships. I always say that Ukrainian flag is also my personal talisman that gave me strength and determination for sports victories. It gives me vigour even now, in these difficult times that are tougher than those I faced in a boxing ring!” he said.

Traditionally, on this day Kyiv mayor handed over Ukrainian passports to 20 young Kyivans.

Kyiv mayor unveils brand new school - biggest in Ukraine

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko celebrated the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year at the unveiling ceremony for the newly remodeled school at 19 Khorolska str. in Dniprovsky district. He handed over a symbolic key of the school to the school principal and took first-graders to their first lesson.



According to Klitschko, this is now the biggest and most innovative school in Ukraine, which features state of the art athletics, a swimming-pool, indoor and outdoor play, and community spaces, a library, a museum and a spacious canteen. There are also fully equipped science and computer labs, specialist rooms for dance and language, along with new technology throughout the entire school. The school is wheelchair-accessible for those with disabilities, offering ramps and lifts. The facility can hold over 1,000 students and combines elementary, middle and high school.

“The previous school building was more than 100 years old and in dilapidated condition. We dismantled the old construction and built a brand new 4-storey school. Like all new education facilities in Kyiv, it is outfitted with security cameras and fire sprinkler system. It also leads the way in energy-efficiency, with its own heat and power unit. Every classroom is equipped with a climate monitoring system,” told Mayor Klitschko.

“In Kyiv this year 33,000 kids enrolled in school for the first time. 183 first-graders will start their first day of school here. The first school day is most exciting and memorable, especially for youngsters who are only starting school today,” remarked Vitali Klitschko.

This year the city has earmarked almost ₴18 billion to educational funding. Eight schools and 26 kindergartens have been built over the past five years and these include reconstructions. Now the reconstruction works in four more preschools have reached the final stage. Construction of two brand new kindergartens is ongoing in Solom’yansky district and Troeschyna neighbourhood.

Klitschko unveils new staircase down from the Saint Andrew's Church to Artists Alley

Klitschko cut the ribbon at a new staircase leading down from the Saint Andrew's Church to Artists Alley and Volodymyrska Hirka park. "Where there were only shrubs some years ago, now you will find a sightseeing route, already popular among Kyivans and visitors. Now there is a nice new staircase stringing together the spruced-up Artists Alley and the Saint Andrew's Church. Kyiv's Montmartre becomes more comfortable and enjoyable!" told Klitschko.

A new reinforced concrete staircase, with wooden steps and lighted by LED-illuminated handrails is built in a similar way to the renovated stairs to Podil's Gonchari-Kozhum`yaki ravine.

"This new city landmark is sponsored by philanthropists. I am grateful to all businesses that care about the city and are involved in implementing the positive change. Here is Mr. Tomáš Fiala, founder and CEO of Dragon Capital company which helped develop this project. Thank you!" said Vitali Klitschko.

Tomáš Fiala remarked that this is not the first time his company has helped Kyiv and will continue to do so. "We hand over the ownership of this €4 million facility to the community. This is not the first time we've helped the city we live in and work. Social responsibility means a lot to us. We love Kyiv which is a beautiful city with huge tourism prospects," he stressed.

New staircase is now a part of a major sightseeing route in the heart of historical city centre.



Klitschko: Sikorskiy's bronze statue meets now passengers at the airport named after him



Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko unveiled a statue to a pioneer in aircraft design Igor Sikosky. The statue is installed in the small square in front of the airport which is named after the famous engineer.

“Celebrating the Aviation Day of Ukraine we are taking one more step towards the honouring of one of the world famous Kyivans. We unveil Igor Sikorsky’s monument that from now on will meet all visitors who arrive to Ukraine’s capital city by air,” said Klitschko.

Though much of his life he spent in the USA, Sikorsky designed and tested the first vertical take-off vehicle in Kyiv, in the backyard of his family house on Yaroslaviv Val street. “Igor Sikorsky is a very outstanding personality. He made his dream of building a helicopter come true. At the end of his life he dreamed of returning to Ukraine. And this monument is allegorical: he returns to his childhood city,” said the sculptor Volodymyr Zhuravel.

Sikorsky’s statue stands on top of a semicircular pedestal, featuring the world map. “I especially like the creative idea - a figure is standing on one leg, as if breaking away from the ground. And since Sikorsky is a designer of the world’s first helicopter, he holds his work in a hand,” told Klitschko.

Kyiv mayor thanked Volodymyr Zhuravel, whose works are popular in Kyiv, and Kyiv philanthropists who funded the project. He also mentioned that for past several years the city government has been unsuccessfully taking back a family home of Sikorsky from the Defence Ministry which failed to maintain it. “It is our hope that Sikorsky’s monument’ll help break a deadlock in this matter and we’ll restore the building and start a museum there. People will see where he grew up. This is our history which we must honour and share. Ukraine has plenty to be proud of!” he emphasized.

Klitschko: Kyiv public service centres remove barriers to communication for hard of hearing people

One of Kyiv public service centres introduced a pilot project designed to help in delivering administrative services to hard of hearing people. Kyiv mayor tested a new communication platform at one of city's service centres.

“We do everything to make Kyiv more comfortable to live and more inclusive. Now administrative services are more easily accessible for hard of hearing people. At the centre a person wearing a hearing aid device can switch it to a special mode or use special headphones. Then a voice message of an operator is being processed and adapted to peculiarities of a client's hearing. Qualified sign language interpreters help deaf persons in a video messenger. This service is also available free of charge,” explained Vitali Klitschko.

New platform will eventually encompass all administrative service centres across the city. “Now there are 14 such centres in Kyiv. We've changed our philosophy and will be improving the system further on. Currently service centres offer over 150 services,” noted Klitschko.



Klitschko meets with World Bank Group President

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko met with the World Bank Group President David Malpass who has traveled to Kyiv for a visit. Vadym Boychenko, Mariupil mayor and Oleksandr Simchischyn, mayor of the city of Khmenitskiy were also in attendance.



Klitschko informed that at the meeting they discussed the importance of further implementation of decentralization reform and enhancing local government capacity. “Also we discussed further steps toward improving financial viability of Ukrainian cities and villages as well as other reforms that are vital for local governments. Among them are establishment of municipal police forces and strengthening of the appointment powers of municipal authority. For example, Kyiv mayor isn’t empowered to even reprimand or dismiss city district heads who are appointed by President,” emphasized Klitschko.

Vitali Klitschko and David Malpass also focused on further cooperation between municipalities and international financial institutions in raising funds for specific infrastructure projects, e.g. transport, waste management and others.

Klitschko: removal of illegal outdoor advertising in full swing

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko made a tour of the city's illegal outdoor advertising removal work. "We continue to take down a bulk of these hoardings. Often concerned citizens report suspicious ads to the city. The most recent example: 259 illegal advertisements have been discovered in Borysa Hmyri street. All of them were put up illegally, without municipal permits. Now they are removed," he remarked.

Kyiv mayor emphasized that some advertisers tried to make a deal with outdoor advertising control inspectors, but failed. Also, according to him, there are even incidents when advertising companies try to force inspectors to stop. Then the police move in.

Vitali Klitschko revealed that the capital city is further cracking down on the hundreds of billboards. "Four years ago I initiated a big city 'cleanup'. Together with main advertising companies the city government developed and started to launch a new mutually advantageous outdoor ad arrangement that resulted in a dramatical decrease of the number of billboards - from over 12,000 to some 4,700. Now we are nearing their benchmark number - 4,390," underlined Klitschko.

