

Kyiv Mayor Newsletter

July 2019



CHANGE STARTS WITH KYIV

Klitschko: split of responsibilities and dual power in Kyiv unconstitutional and anti self-government

As Kyiv mayor outlined in his press conference today, attempts to split responsibilities between a mayor and a head of Kyiv State Administration are undemocratic and unconstitutional. They can lead to denial of self-governance for Kyiv and jeopardise the decentralization achievements.



He emphasized that today Kyivans are being deprived of not only their right to elect their local government but also the tools of democratic participation and resident empowerment, which have successfully been launched in Kyiv, including the Open Budget, ProZorro e-procurement system, Participatory Budget and the city-owned properties auctioning. “The Kyiv City Council cannot vote by proxy - three years ago we have installed a voting tool which controls the voting by personal appearance,” said the mayor.

He stressed that all these innovations are being launched and maintained by the elected city government. Functionaries passed down rather than elected by Kyivans bear no responsibility whatsoever towards the community.

“This situation is not about the names or my clinging to this job. It is all about key principles. This situation attacks the local self-governance and not only here, in Kyiv. Let’s remember that Kyiv is where it all starts,” emphasized Klitschko.

“As I said, a division of responsibilities is unconstitutional. Now there are attempts to juggle the Constitution and the Law of the Capital City, while saying that they are perfectly legal. Let me remind that back in 2003 the Constitutional Court of Ukraine ruled that the Kyiv State Administration has to be chaired by an elected mayor rather than an appointed functionary,” stressed Klitschko.

Together with his brother Wladimir Vitali Klitschko has filed a lawsuit against 1+1 TV channel for libel. According to Klitschko, every single day this broadcaster bad-mouths him and even his brother. “‘1+1’ is hardly unbiased since its CEO both represents a political party and is recognized candidate running for Kyiv State Administration,” he said.

“There is plenty of fierce mudslinging, a slander, inspired by Yanukovich’s allies. I will be defending myself against defamatory attacks in court. I don’t care about whoever runs for state administration. But I won’t let anyone to damage my reputation which has been developed over years,” announced Klitschko.

He gave some examples of such manipulative information. One of them is related to the cost of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge. “The bridge doesn’t cost ₴400 million. This is the total cost of some projects. Bridge building totals ₴270. Besides, we have settled up for only ₴210 million materials used for construction. The rest of funds still remain in the city’s account,” he commented. He underlined that upon the city’s request, the Kyiv Audit Office and the Kyiv Forensic Institute are performing a construction cost audit. Later the National Anti-Corruption Bureau will also review the construction cost efficiency.



According to Klitschko, another example is a construction of Shulyavsky overpass. “The work there remains on track. But now we grapple an intentional delay in the factory building No. 5 demolition which leads to sluggish progress on the project. For over a year now we have been ineffectually discussing this issue with the government and the State Property Fund,” he said.

Also Kyiv mayor briefed the journalists about the city’s achievements during the past years. “We have tripled the budget revenues and managed the finances well enough to avoid bankruptcy. We have built 26 kindergartens and eight schools, overhauled 41 hospital units and five maternity hospitals. We have repaired almost 900 kilometers of roads, and we are continuing with our plans to renovate them. We have revamped over 360 parks and squares. Over 130 land plots have been granted with protected ‘green’ status by the city council. We have introduced 134 trolleybuses, 63 new trams and 100 buses. 189 new ambulance cars available now for Kyiv Emergency Healthcare. These are only some of positive outcomes which Kyivans see,” mentioned Vitali Klitschko.

Kyiv mayor highlighted the importance of further citizen empowerment. “No European country or city have an appointed local government. Municipal authorities are elected by the people directly,” said Vitali Klitschko.

Klitschko meets Giuliani

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko met with the former mayor of New York City Rudolph Giuliani.

In a video he posted on Facebook, he says that “my old friend and one of the most successful mayors in the world Rudi Giuliani invited me to meet him in New York. We talked about the current situation in Ukraine and further cooperation between the USA and Ukraine. And we surely discussed the importance of local governance and its development. Next time we meet with Rudi will be in Kyiv.”

“I am so grateful to all Ukraine’s friends for their support and help. I appreciate your trust and confidence in Ukraine!” he said.



2 more city hospitals receive upgrade

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko inspected recent improvements to the Kyiv maternity hospital No. 1. This is the oldest city's maternity hospital, that marks the 101st year of service. Over 200,000 babies were delivered here during all these years. It delivers up to 4,000 babies a year.

The building has 7 various wards, with 140 beds in total. The upgrade provides more floor space and increased levels of comfort for patients. Other improvements include the thermal upgrade of all three hospital buildings, replacement of hospital elevators and landscaping.



The newly-reconstructed building will accommodate new family labor, delivery, and recovery rooms; modern operative and post-operative ward; gynecology care ward and pregnancy pathology ward. “We have reconstructed the hospital and invested ₴107 million in the purchase of the latest medical equipment. We are committed to bring all city hospitals to the highest level of service, in compliance with the latest standards of health care,” remarked Vitali Klitschko.

Meanwhile, work on the upgrading of the Kyiv city clinic No. 18 is also currently in progress. This clinic is one of the oldest in Kyiv, its first

wards have been built back in 1886. At present it has 415 beds capacity in 9 wards altogether, including internal medicine; surgical, and neurology. There are over 120 doctors and about 200 professional nurses working in the hospital. “Over the last year over 11,000 patients were admitted to the hospital. It handled nearly 4,000 surgical cases. There are people, their lives and health behind the statistics. And we are continuing with our plans to further improve the hospitals’ facilities. As of 2017, we invested over ₴20 million in major upgrade and new medical equipment for this city clinic,” remarked Klitschko.

New medical equipment includes in particular the latest video endoscope to screen for and prevent colorectal cancer and installed ceiling mounted lifts so that stroke patients could benefit from getting up and heal faster. Using this lifts the clinic successfully rehabilitated almost all early-stage patients who have suffered from stroke. Also the rehabilitation ward has rooms for psychological and speech therapy for such patients.

The hospital now includes a new unit specifically designed for palliative care patients.

“This is what all city hospitals should be like,” stressed Mayor. “Moreover, medical staff shouldn’t be overlooked. Kyiv healthcare providers receive an extra pay because we don’t want them thinking how to live on minimum wage,” emphasized Klitschko.

Kyiv continues to grapple with dilapidated highways and driveways

Currently the city runs an ambitious road repair and rehabilitation programme. Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko inspected repair work on Borschahivsky overpass reconstruction site. He apologized for the temporary inconvenience caused during the repair works and heavy traffic at the area. “Most of road repairs do happen in the summer,” he remarked.

“Currently crews are working non-stop to complete the reconstruction and resume light rail full-time operations,” stressed Klitschko. He said, the most pressing challenge is repairing worn tramway tracks. “Borschahivsky overpass has never been renovated since 1965. It is in poor condition from deterioration and urgently needs repair,” he said.



Also Kyivautodor municipal corporation has announced the closure of Stepan Bandera highway for its repair and maintenance. “Reconstruction includes freshly paved road surface and sidewalks, new curbs and storm drains, new fencing, installed LED street lighting and an on-road cycle lane,” remarked Klitschko.

This year the city allocated about ₴0.5 billion for maintenance and repair of block passages, inner courtyards and driveways. “A vast network of pipes which are in an advanced state of disrepair will be replaced followed by area overlay and landscaping. I am certain, the residents of these houses have never seen such dramatic repair works in their courtyards,” said Klitschko.

According to him, the city plans to renovate 869 inner courtyards and block passages. “It is impossible to mend all courtyards simultaneously, it requires both funding and time. But we do everything to keep up that pace,” stressed Klitschko.

Over the past few years the city has fixed over 900 km of roads and 30 bridges and overpasses.

2 more Kyiv city park reopened to public

Mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko cut the ribbon at the reconstructed Kurenivsky park. Created over 50 years ago, one of the largest recreation areas of Podil has been reopened to the public following a massive restoration. Now Kurenivsky park is a completely overhauled with a new 15 kilometers irrigation system, 31 CCTV cameras installed, landscaping and a more modern look. This is a comfortable place for family fun and sport activities.

The park design incorporates some new elements including low maintenance landscaping with evergreen plants and perennials, dry fountain with light effects.



“It has everything to make kids happy! There are playgrounds, sports courts for different age groups and a unique feature - a car park playground where kids can both drive and learn about road safety in a fun way,” underlined Kyiv’s mayor.

The street-themed playground mimics city roads - with overpasses, public transport stops, tunnels, railway crossing and common traffic signals found in the city.

Altogether 26 parks and green spaces have been renovated in Kyiv this year. Just recently the revamped Veselka park has been reopened to the public, featuring now a colorful playground, new football, volleyball and basketball courts, outdoor chess and table tennis tables.

Renovations are in full swing in Peremoha park, Sovky park and third portion of Natalka park. “Over 360 parks and squares have been created and refreshed by Kyiv authorities over the last few years. All of them have a modern look and feature new lighting, CCTV cameras system, walking trails, playgrounds for kids and separate exercise areas,” remarked Vitali Klitschko.

Kyiv announces pilot project in waste segregation



The Kyiv authorities announced that the city will implement a pilot project to segregate solid wastes, studying and following the best European solid waste management practices in this field.

“You might have already seen containers for separate waste collection in your backyards. There are already over 2,500 such garbage bins installed for plastic, paper, glass and cans. And we are increasing their number. Also over 40 new bright ‘only glass’ and ‘only plastic’ bins have been rolled out across the city centre under the pilot initiative. Later we will distribute more sets of containers for different waste types,” wrote Vitali Klitschko in his Facebook post.

He remarked that Kyiv learns about the process and outcomes of projects implemented by its peers in Europe to achieve the waste segregation and make waste collection more efficient.

Waste segregation is a part of Kyiv’s new waste management and disposal strategy to leverage the best European waste management practices.

City further improves street lighting

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko revealed plans to further upgrade old street lights to new modern lighting. “Kyiv is becoming safer and more well-lighted! The next wave of swap to LED lights will cover another 120 city streets - both major highways and minor roads, where we plan to install 15,000 energy efficient LED streetlights,” he said.

He remarked that new bright LEDs will enhance safety and security on the streets both for pedestrians and vehicles. Also by converting to LED, the city reduces energy costs up to 30%. Last year, the converted streetlights saved €11 million.



Klitschko unveils first glass-walled Kyiv Metro police station

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko attended the unveiling of the first transparent police office at the city's Luk'yanivska Metro station.

“Around 70,000 people use this station every day, and plenty of them request police assistance,” remarked Klitschko. “As of now a police station here has glass walls to make the police work more transparent,” said Klitschko.

The police station is designed according to the standards of transparency. The officers can monitor commuters and situation in the station using security cameras and quickly respond to any misbehavior. Also Metro riders can seek police assistance to report a crime or return lost items. Also an AED is available at the police office.

“Now the project has started with a pilot version. In the nearest months law enforcement officers will analyze the performance of this station and if it proves its efficiency, the same police stations will open at the busiest stations and Metro transit hubs,” emphasized Kyiv mayor.

He underlined that such projects have been set up with the aim to make Kyiv safer and more comfortable. Also he reminded that further implementing the Safe City project the city continues to install surveillance cameras.

The head of Kyiv's Police Service Andriy Kryschenko and the chairman of Kyiv Metro Viktor Braginsky were also in attendance.

