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NEW HOUSING JUSTICE CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING INJUSTICES AND DEMANDS NEW LEGISLATION FROM CITY COUNCIL

The Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities launched its campaign this week

PHILADELPHIA – In a [report released today](#), the [Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities \(PCAC\)](#), a group of 77 organizations representing 100,000 poor and working class Philadelphians, details glaring injustices around housing resources in Philadelphia. The report highlights disparities in what the City deems affordable and what is actually affordable to residents. The release of this report marks the launch of the Coalition’s new Housing Justice Campaign which urges City Council to pass legislation committing 50% of all housing dollars to households who need it most, households earning \$28,600 per year or less. The full report is available on the PCAC website: <http://phillyaffordablecommunities.org/index.php/our-report/>

“The resources the City has devoted to affordable housing are not going to families including seniors and people with disabilities who need them most. It is imperative that City Council rethink the way housing funds are used to address the affordable housing crisis impacting our communities,” said Jamilla Waliddin, Liberty Housing Development Corporation. “One of every two renters and one of every three homeowners is housing cost burdened. This means they have little or no money for necessities after paying their housing expenses. It cannot continue. We are calling on City Council to increase the level of support for the creation and preservation of homes that are affordable for Philadelphia’s most vulnerable households.”

A key issue highlighted by PCAC’s report is the difference between the federally defined ‘Area Median Income’ (AMI), which includes Philadelphia’s surrounding counties, and Philadelphia’s actual median income. Despite a stated AMI of \$114,400, the actual median income in Philadelphia is just half that amount at \$57,400. Thus, higher income households are eligible for city housing programs, leaving fewer resources for families with lower incomes. This puts our poorest families at risk of being displaced from their communities. New legislation from City Council could address this issue, which disproportionately affects communities of color.

"I am proud to stand with the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities as they launch their new Housing Justice Campaign!" said Councilmember Jamie Gauthier (3rd District), Chair of City Council's Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless. "40% of families in my Council district earn less than \$30,000 annually. This means units created for households earning 80% of AMI would only be affordable to residents making more than twice the average income in the neighborhoods I represent. We have a responsibility to wrap our arms around our neediest neighbors. I will keep pushing to ensure the City deploys its affordable housing resources equitably!"

Right now, only one of the City’s dozen housing programs is designed to support its most vulnerable households. The Housing Justice Campaign and its accompanying report underscores the critical need

for funding committed specifically to support the significant number of families in need in Philadelphia. At the current pace of investment, it will take 220 years to bridge the affordable housing gap. This is clearly unacceptable. Philadelphia is gaining jobs and development is flourishing as it continues to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This should mean positive impact for all, but it currently does not. PCAC is determined to ensure the city doesn't leave families behind as it charts its course forward.

To learn more about the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities and explore the Housing Justice Campaign report in full, please visit <http://phillyaffordablecommunities.org/index.php/our-report/>.

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Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities (PCAC) was formed in 2014. Since its inception, it has demanded that funding the Housing Trust Fund be a priority for the City of Philadelphia. PCAC's 76 members include the city's leading community, disability, faith, labor and urban agriculture organizations. Together, these organizations represent over 80,000 Philadelphians who need affordable, accessible housing. For more information about PCAC, please visit www.PhillyAffordableCommunities.org