

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATES DEMAND
DEDICATED FUNDS FROM CITY COUNCIL**

The Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities is calling for dedicated funds to address the city's affordable housing crisis

PHILADELPHIA – Members of the [Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities](#), a 76-member group representing 80,000 Philadelphians in need of affordable, accessible housing, gathered today at City Hall to demand dedicated funds to address the city's affordable housing crisis. Ahead of the first City Council session of the fall, the group rallied at Dilworth Plaza to urge councilmembers to pass a law committing 50% of all housing dollars to households who need it most. Philadelphia City Councilmember Kendra Brooks addressed the group and voiced her support for PCAC's efforts.

"When families are paying 50, 60, or even 70 percent of their household income to keep a roof over their heads, that's not affordable housing," said Councilmember Brooks "Philly's housing crisis affects all of us, and giving handouts to big developers of luxury condos is not going to solve it. We need to commit to making sure homes in our city are safe, accessible, and truly affordable for the families who need it most."

Half of all Philadelphia households earn less than \$52,000 per year. One third of households earn even less than that: under \$25,000 per year. Despite these sobering facts, almost all the city's limited resources for affordable housing are open to households who earn *more* than \$52,000. Too many Philadelphians are paying more than they can afford on their housing costs. Others are being displaced from the communities they call home.

Philadelphia City Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, chair of the Council's Housing committee, is another elected official with a robust history of support for PCAC. She has championed legislation in support of the coalition's work and is committed to continuing that in the 2024 City Council session.

"I am proud to stand with PCAC as they take a forensic look at how the City spends its affordable housing dollars," said Councilmember Gauthier. "We have a responsibility to wrap our arms around our most vulnerable neighbors – I will keep pushing to ensure we deploy resources equitably."

In early 2024, PCAC will be launching a campaign focused on housing justice. The campaign is backed by research highlighting the critical need for resources dedicated to truly affordable housing. It is the coalition's hope that City leaders will recognize the importance of real affordable housing and strong communities across Philadelphia.

"What the city calls affordable housing is not actually affordable. We are urging City Council to pass a law committing half of all housing dollars – that's federal, state, and local funds – to households who need it most. The data shows that this is families earning \$25,000 or less," said Nora Lichtash, Executive Director of the Women's Community Revitalization Project. "If we don't invest more resources into

housing that is truly affordable, the city and its communities will pay a much steeper price down the road.”

For more information about the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities, please visit <http://phillyaffordablecommunities.org/>.

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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