



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **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 \(PCAC\)](#), a 78-member group representing 100,000 poor and working class Philadelphians, gathered today at City Hall ahead of the first City Council session to call on Councilmembers to pass new legislation addressing the affordable housing crisis. Glaring injustices around housing resources in Philadelphia were detailed by speakers including Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, Domonique Howell, a disability advocate from Disabled in Action, and Eduardo Esquivel, an advocate for housing that's deeply affordable, from Simple Homes. The group urged councilmembers to ensure the City doesn't leave families and individuals with disabilities behind as it charts its course forward.

"40% of my constituents earn less than \$30,000 annually," said Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, Chair of City Council's Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless. "These families need our help the most. We must prioritize getting them access safe, stable, and affordable housing."

The resources the city has devoted to affordable housing are not going to seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities who need them most. Right now, only one of the City's dozen housing programs is designed to support its most vulnerable households. At the current pace of investment, it will take 220 years to bridge the affordable housing gap. This is unacceptable. The PCAC is determined to ensure the city doesn't leave families behind as it charts its course forward.

In January 2024, the PCAC launched its [Campaign for Housing Justice](#) highlighting the critical need for resources dedicated to truly affordable housing. 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.

"City Council needs to act now to keep people – our neighbors – from being left behind," said Jonny Rashid, Pastor, West Philadelphia Mennonite Church. "New legislation needs to be introduced that ensures dedicated funds will reach the members of our communities who are most vulnerable."

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](http://www.PhillyAffordableCommunities.org)