



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATES TESTIFY AT CITY COUNCIL HEARING

Members of the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities spoke on the scale of the city's housing affordability crisis

PHILADELPHIA – Members of the [Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities \(PCAC\)](#), a 78-member group representing 100,000 poor and working-class Philadelphians, testified at City Council's Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless hearing on affordable housing on Tuesday, February 11.

The testimonies detailed personal experiences, Philadelphia's true housing affordability crisis, and the scale of the problem from the lens of individuals directly impacted by these issues.

Mindy Watts, principal of city planning firm Interface Studio LLC, provided testimony detailing data showing just how drastically the basic need for access to safe, quality, and affordable housing is growing in Philadelphia. Watts supported PCAC's development of its [Housing Justice Campaign report](#) in 2024, which outlines glaring injustices around housing resources in Philadelphia and urges City Council to pass legislation committing 50% of all housing dollars to households who need it most. In the year since that report launched, the data has changed and statistics are worsening. For example, **in 2023, Philadelphia's median income was roughly \$60,000, which is less than half of the \$124,000 Area Median Income.**

Lorraine Mobley, Homeowners Association Council Board Member of Rebuilding Together Philadelphia spoke on her own personal experience and challenges owning and maintaining a West Philadelphia home. With perspective from her role with Rebuilding Together Philadelphia, Mobley underscored the struggle of far too many Philadelphians living in unsafe housing because **City programs do not truly prioritize the most vulnerable citizens. Citywide, that is 30% of households.**

Domonique Howell, Independent Living Specialist at Liberty Resources, shared her experience as a single mother and individual with a disability who has seen firsthand the devastating effects of Philadelphia's housing crisis. Howell and her daughter were specifically impacted by the lack of accessible housing options and the lack of accessible shelter space when they found themselves faced with housing insecurity. Though they now have a roof over their heads, Howell pointed to the growing gap between income and housing costs as a significant concern not only for her but for half of renters and one-third of homeowners in Philadelphia. **Median home values in the City have risen 107% since 2000, while incomes have only increased by 9%.**

Angelita Ellison, a volunteer with the Women's Community Revitalization Project, detailed the impact of gentrification on her family and so many others across Philadelphia. Despite having a home passed down through her family, the lack of assistance available for repairs forced her family to move. With

Philadelphia's neighborhoods becoming increasingly unaffordable, Angelita is among the **one in two renters and one in three homeowners who are housing cost-burdened.**

The full City Council Committee of Housing Neighborhood Development and the Homeless hearing can be [viewed here](#).

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

About the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities (PCAC)

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 78 members include the city's leading community, disability, faith, labor and urban agriculture organizations. Together, these organizations represent over 100,000 Philadelphians who need affordable, accessible housing. For more information about PCAC, please visit www.PhillyAffordableCommunities.org.

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