

June 18, 2024

The Honorable Eric Adams  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Honorable Mayor Adams,

The undersigned represent a coalition of faith leaders concerned about New York City's growing housing crisis. Rents are at record levels, evictions and homelessness are rising, and the city is staring down its worst affordability crisis in decades. This issue is deeply affecting our congregants, our communities, and the city at large.

To address the housing crisis, the City must deepen its investment in permanently affordable housing. Financing the production and preservation of affordable housing is one of the most powerful tools the City has to stabilize neighborhoods and protect working families from displacement.

The funding would go to two key programs:

- The **Neighborhood Pillars** program would help community organizations including faith based organizations acquire and rehabilitate housing. This program would help make the necessary repairs in dilapidated buildings and ensure ongoing affordability.
- The **Open Door** program would finance the construction of new shared-equity cooperatives, granting New Yorkers a path toward homeownership to create generational wealth, especially for families left out of the traditional homeownership market. These new units could be built on vacant land owned by houses of worship to create new affordable cooperative opportunities.

**We support the Homes Now Plan.** Winning this \$2.5 billion capital investment in housing will:

- **Empower tenants and address building neglect:** This funding would allow the City of New York to work with local partners to purchase buildings from negligent landlords, make renovations and maintain housing as affordable in perpetuity.
- **Add to the City's critically needed affordable housing stock:** Increased capital funding would allow for HPD to construct or preserve 5,000 climate resilient and accessible homes for New Yorkers who are becoming increasingly priced out of the city.
- **Create new homeownership opportunities:** This funding would finance the new construction of shared equity homeownership, creating the opportunity for

equity-building and the creation of generational wealth for thousands of New York families that have been left out of the traditional homeownership market. We will work with the Administration to ensure that the income band requirements reflect the salaries found in our communities.

- **Create good-paying jobs:** Together, we can leverage City capital investment to insist that housing built with public dollars comes with wage standards. By tying increased public investment in affordable housing to budgetary terms and conditions that raise workplace standards, we can ensure that all new construction projects built through Homes Now funds have strong standards for workers.

We strongly support this \$2.5 billion budget request and urge the Mayor and the Council to commit the capital investment necessary to address our housing crisis.

**Sincerely (in alphabetical order by last name),**

1. Executive Director, Rana Abdelhamid, Malukah
2. Imam Al-Hajj Talib Abdur-Rashid, The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood Inc.
3. Rabbinical Student Hadar Ahuvia, Kolot Chayeinu
4. Rabbi Guy Austrian, Fort Tyron Jewish Center
5. Chair, Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan, Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership Council of New York
6. Sheikh and Religious Director, Mohammad Badawy, Muslim American Society Youth Center and Muslim American Society Youth Center
7. Sheikh and Religious Director, Abdelrahman Badawy, Muslim American Society of Staten Island
8. Board Member, Asad Bajwa, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
9. Executive Director Reverend Chloe Breyer, The Interfaith Center of New York
10. Rabbi Emily Cohen
11. Rabbinical Student Bennett Decker
12. Pastor Brian C. Ellis-Gibbs, Queens Baptist Church
13. Rabbi Barat Ellman, Tirdof: New York Jewish Clergy for Justice
14. President, Somia Elrowmeim, Union of Arab Women
15. Rabbi Susan Falk, The Shul of New York
16. Sheikh and Imam Mohammad Fawzy, Muslim American Society Sheepshead Bay Community Center
17. Cantor Amelia Fox Lavranchuk
18. Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg, Malkhut: Progressive Jewish spirituality in Queens
19. Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, SAJ-Judaism that Stands for All
20. Rabbi Lisa D. Grant
21. Rabbi Miriam Grossman
22. CEO Erum Hanif, APNA Brooklyn Community Center
23. Executive Director Malik Hassan, Muslim American Society of Brooklyn
24. Principal Qazi Hoque, Peace Academy
25. Rabbi Margo Hughes-Robinson
26. President Khondokar Islam, Arafa Islamic Center
27. Reverend Dr. Bayer Jack-Wah Lee, First Chinese Baptist Church
28. Rabbi Jill Jacobs, T'ruah

29. Rabbi Marisa James, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST)
30. Executive Director, Marwa Janini, Arab American Association of New York
31. Rabbi Mark Kaiserman, The Reform Temple of Forest Hills
32. Imam Mamadou Kamara, South Bronx Islamic Cultural Center Inc - Masjid Abass
33. Imam Zak Khan, Peace Community Center of New York
34. Rabbi Ellen Lippmann, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice
35. Executive Director Mohammed Mardah, African Advisory Foundation
36. Rabbi Marc Margolius
37. Justice Advocate Charmaine Massiah, Presbytery of New York City
38. Chaplain Shahana Masum, Muslim Sisters of Staten Island
39. Rabbi Lev Meiowitz Nelson, Flatbush Jewish Center
40. Marianne Montero, Riverdale Presbyterian Church
41. Dr. Chaplain Abdus-Salaam Musa, Islamic Circle of North America
42. Founder and Executive Director Robina Niaz, Turning Point for Women & Families
43. Imam Hako Omeragic, Belmont Islamic Center
44. Advisory Council Member Shivani Parikh, Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus
45. Rabbi Shuli Passow, B'nai Jeshurun
46. Administrator Vipul Patel, BAPS Shri Swaminaryan Mandir
47. Deputy Director Shaaranya Pillai, India Home
48. Rabbi William Plevan
49. Hazzan Ari Priven, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun
50. President & CEO Malcolm A. Punter, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement Inc.
51. Karmacharya Vijah Ramjattan, United Madrassi Association Inc.
52. Ustad Hussein Rashid, Traveling Shi'i Preacher
53. Pastor Thia Reggio, Second Presbyterian Church NYC
54. Rabbi Jose Rolando Matalon, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun
55. Founder and Executive Director Bazah Roohi, American Council of Minority Women, Inc.
56. Rabbi Jennie Rosenn
57. Rabbi Sivan Rotholz
58. Reverend Mira Sawlani-Joyner, The Riverside Church
59. Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, Dawah USA Mosque
60. Imam Muhammad Shamsi Ali, Jamaica Muslim Center
61. Rabbi Misha Shulman, The New Shul
62. Harpreet Singh Toor, Patron of the Global Sikh Studies Institute and Former President of The Sikh Cultural Society
63. Rabbi Felicia Sol
64. Student Rabbi Louisa, Solomon Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
65. Rabbi Abby Stein, Kolot Chayeinu
66. Reverend and Senior Minister Adriene Thorne, The Riverside Church in the City of New York
67. Chief Executive Officer Djeneba Toure-Diaby, Masjid Mohammad Ali Islamic Center (A project of Zeina Lorraine Inc)
68. Rabbi Nancy H. Wiener
69. Rabbi Daniel Wolpe, Flushing Fresh Meadows Jewish Center

70. Executive Director Husein Yatabarry, Muslim Community Network
71. Rabbi Max Zev Reynolds