

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250452)

RESOLUTION

Declaring May 2025 as Affordable Housing Month in City of Philadelphia, and recognizing the need for stable, safe, accessible, and affordable housing for all residents.

WHEREAS, Philadelphia and the entire country are experiencing record levels of housing unaffordability and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Affordable Housing Month is observed annually in May, serving as a nationwide call to action to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing, advocate for policies to ensure that everyone has access to stable, safe, and affordable housing, and highlight the challenges faced by low-income families and individuals who are looking for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines housing as affordable if its cost does not exceed 30 percent of a household's income. Households that spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs are known as "cost burdened", and households that spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing costs are "extremely cost burdened;" and

WHEREAS, An affordable rent in Philadelphia for someone receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is just \$290 per month; an affordable rent for someone working a full-time minimum wage job is just \$377 per month; and an affordable rent for a three-person family living at the federal poverty line is just \$666 per month; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, 244,000 Philadelphia households were housing cost burdened, which is 37 percent of all households Citywide. In addition, 130,000 Philadelphia households, or 20 percent of all Citywide households, were extremely cost burdened in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Half of all Philadelphia renter households and one-third of Philadelphia homeowner households are cost burdened; and

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WHEREAS, A 2024 “Point in Time” count conducted by the Office of Homeless Services showed 5,191 people in Philadelphia were experiencing homelessness, of those, 976 individuals were living unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, Affordable housing contributes to improved health outcomes, reduced homelessness, reduced crime rates, increased financial stability and economic opportunities, and better educational and developmental outcomes for children; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia must commit to expanding fair and affordable housing, by funding programs and expanding resources available to low-income renters and homeowners as well as developing policies and increasing investments designed to create more affordable housing. With increased investment in deep and permanently affordable housing, the City of Philadelphia can work to address the affordable housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, Affordable Housing Month serves as a crucial reminder that housing is a fundamental human right and need, and it is essential to work to ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable places to live; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby declare May 2025 as Affordable Housing Month in the City of Philadelphia and recognizes the need for stable, safe, accessible, and affordable housing for all residents.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the first day of May, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Landau

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Landua, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Gauthier, Brooks, Driscoll, Squilla, Bass and Ahmad