



Labor for Black Lives Coalition Calls on Mayor Kenney and City Leaders to Save the University City Townhomes

The Philadelphia Labor For Black Lives Coalition stands in solidarity with the courageous residents and housing activists fighting to save the UC Townhomes. As a coalition representing our city's Black union leadership and members, we believe unequivocally that housing is a human right.

The University City Townhomes (3900-3999 Market St.), owned by Brett Altman, has provided low-income housing to more than 70 families for almost 40 years. Altman has announced a pending sale, mass displacement and demolition of the property in September.

This location is one of the final affordable housing communities left in what was historically known as the Black Bottom neighborhood. This community has its roots as one of the earliest black neighborhoods in Philadelphia, but over the last fifty years has been systematically dismantled as the result of urban renewal and the expansion of University of Drexel and University of Pennsylvania.

We are calling on Mayor Kenney and city leaders to provide a solution to keep UC Townhomes in their homes and commit to preserving deeply affordable housing for very low income seniors and families. We call on the city to immediately block the sale of UC Townhomes, require investment in these units to make them safe and livable homes, and halt developer plans to develop the land upon which they are built.

As a coalition of labor unions representing black and brown workers, we know that securing safe and affordable rental housing is a constant struggle for working class people of color in the city. A large number of the workers we represent are required to reside in the city as a condition of their employment, but rising rent costs, a shortage of affordable housing, and structural barriers embedded in the rental application and affordable housing voucher process make securing housing increasingly difficult. We need our city's leaders to stand with our black communities so that our workers are able to continue living and working in Philadelphia for years to come.

In Solidarity,

SEIU Healthcare PA
AFSCME DC 47 Retirees Chapter
BMWED-IBT local 3012
SEIU AFRAM (Healthcare PA)
Unite Here Local 274
Philly Black Worker Project
National Writers Union
SEIU 32BJ

APWU Local #89
Philly NOW
AFSCME District Council 33
National Domestic Workers Alliance - PA Chapter
Philadelphia Chapter APRI, Inc
Einstein Nurses United and PASNAP
District 1199C
SEIU PA State Council