

5 DEMOCRATIC MAYORAL CANDIDATES SIGN ON TO HEALTHY ROWHOUSE CHARTER

All pledge to change city housing policies to preserve affordable housing and improve the health of Philadelphians

PHILADELPHIA, PA—(April 9, 2015)—Mayoral candidates former District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham, Judge Nelson A. Diaz, former City Councilman Jim Kenney, former mayoral aide Doug Oliver, and State Sen. Anthony H. Williams have all signed on to the Healthy Rowhouse Charter, an initiative of the [Healthy Rowhouse Project](#), committing to repair and improve Philadelphia's older rental and owner-occupied homes. Helping thousands of owners to eliminate unhealthy housing conditions is critical to the future of the city.

The Healthy Rowhouse Project Coalition was formed last year as a result of growing evidence that improving housing conditions will improve family health, prevent displacement in neighborhoods with changing markets, lower school absences and improve school performance, reduce healthcare costs and create neighborhood jobs. In fact, a 2013-2014 Philadelphia Department of Public Health pilot with St. Christopher's Hospital to make home repairs and remove asthma triggers caused a 53% decrease in missed school days and a 70% drop in asthma hospitalizations within six months.

By signing onto The Healthy Rowhouse Charter, the Democratic Philadelphia Mayoral Candidates state that, if elected, they will:

- Create a bold public health and housing policy for Philadelphia that prioritizes the delivery of improvements to rowhouses affordable to lower income residents;
- Increase the resources available to lower income property owners to improve occupant health and the viability of their properties by ensuring there is a fair balance of public housing dollars between new construction and rehabilitation of existing occupied homes;
- Establish new viable financing mechanisms to bring home repairs to scale, repairing 5,000 owner- and renter-occupied homes per year. These financing tools will be based upon successful models in other cities and will include deferred loans due upon sale or transfer of the home and low-interest loans;
- Protect tenants' legal rights to healthy living conditions and encourage responsible rental practices through a systemic enforcement approach that promotes investment, rather than displacement;
- Develop capacity within health care and social service providers to identify and refer patients who are harmed by their housing conditions to resources to reduce the health hazards in their homes;
- Evaluate each Healthy Rowhouse Project program and measure performance outcomes.

Mayoral candidate Milton Street did not respond to requests for meetings.

The [Healthy Rowhouse Project](#), an initiative of the Design Advocacy Group, is a growing coalition of organizations in the fields of health, housing, planning and preservation dedicated to improving substandard conditions and health in rowhouses owned by lower-income Philadelphians.

Organizations that have signed onto the Healthy Rowhouse Project charter are: AIA Philadelphia; Building Industry Association of Philadelphia; Clarifi; Clean Air Council; Community Design Collaborative; Delaware Valley Green Building Council; Department of Architecture + Interiors, Drexel University; Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia; Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia; Health Federation of Philadelphia; Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania; LISC Philadelphia; Maternity Care Coalition; National Nursing Centers Consortium; New Kensington CDC; PennFuture; Philadelphia Association of CDC's; Philadelphia Center for Architecture; Philadelphia Corporation for Aging; Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development; Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; Project Home; Rebuilding Together Philadelphia; ULI Philadelphia; United Community Clinic; University of Pennsylvania Center for Public Health Initiatives; and the Urban Affairs Coalition.

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