

December 23, 2021

Mayor-Elect Eric Adams  
P.O. Box 23723  
Brooklyn, NY 11202

Dear Mayor-Elect Adams,

In recent weeks you announced a strong and diverse leadership team for your new administration, with appointments including a Deputy Mayor for Economic and Workforce Development. It is notable that housing has been decoupled from that deputy mayor position and housing leadership has yet to be named. With affordable housing being such a critical issue for New Yorkers and one central to the City's economic recovery, we hope you will now take the opportunity to create a new deputy mayor position for housing, signaling that housing is, in fact, a top priority for your administration.

Ensure this new deputy mayor is directly accountable to the Mayor of the City of New York, to show that you are serious about tackling our housing crisis and have the structure in place to deliver results to New Yorkers. Take this opportunity to create a focused portfolio of housing-related agencies reporting to a new deputy mayor to center preservation efforts around public housing while better aligning housing and homeless agency goals to expand housing supply and reduce homelessness. This is a chance to enhance interagency coordination to make real headway on reducing barriers and bureaucracy which add costs and delays to affordable housing production.

As you know, our coalition – United for Housing – is a group of more than 90 organizations that developed consensus recommendations to address the housing crisis in New York City. We united behind more than 30 recommendations including creating a single deputy mayor that covers agencies responsible for affordable housing production and preservation, public housing, planning and homelessness.

The beginning of a new administration is crucial to articulating your priorities and the housing and homelessness crisis will be one of your biggest challenges. NY's eviction moratorium will expire only 2 weeks after you take office on January 15<sup>th</sup>, with nearly 80,000 eviction filings already recorded. And the federal government has *not* funded the shortfall at the New York City Housing Authority, leaving a \$40 billion repair tab for your administration to grapple with. The City's housing crisis is likely to only get worse without significant investment, policy reform and leadership at City Hall.

Establishing a new deputy mayor role will set a foundation for good policy to address rampant housing instability, oversee significant housing investments in affordable and public housing. I hope you will consider this recommendation and move to swiftly announce your housing leadership appointments. I look forward to a productive relationship with your administration and working closely with your housing team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Fee".

Rachel Fee

Executive Director, New York Housing Conference, lead organization for the United for Housing Coalition