

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

Jacques Jiha
Director, Office of Management and Budget
255 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

We write today as a collection of housing experts, advocates, and practitioners deeply concerned about New York City's capacity to handle the severe shortage of affordable housing considering your request for city agencies to cut 4 percent of their budget. Given our accelerating housing affordability crisis we request that agencies including the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of Buildings (DOB), the Department of City Planning (DCP), the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), and the Human Resources Administration (HRA) be exempt from upcoming budget cuts.

If these agencies are not exempted, the consequences will be severe for countless New Yorkers across the five boroughs. These cuts will extend affordable housing construction timelines and project approvals, delay housing assistance and ultimately prevent New Yorkers from accessing the safe, affordable housing they deserve. This is an unacceptable outcome.

Placing the requested cuts into the proper context further illustrates these points. Ongoing staffing and resource deficits at key housing agencies have been plaguing New York City since the pandemic began, including during your administration. Despite the housing crisis, HPD has seen its city budget depleted by 6 percent in the last two years, and staffing levels at every housing-related agency are dangerously low. Consider the latest data, collected in January:

- **Human Resources Administration:** short 1,726 positions (14% less than budgeted)
- **Housing Preservation and Development:** short almost 405 positions (15% less than budgeted)
- **Department of Buildings:** 287 positions (16% less than budgeted)
- **Department of City Planning:** 67 positions (20% less than budgeted)
- **Department of Homeless Services:** 116 positions (6% less than budgeted)

Make no mistake, previous budget cuts and ongoing staffing shortages are already having a material impact on New York City. In fact, it is a major reason why the Adams administration is not "getting stuff done" and is producing fewer affordable units each year than its predecessor and securing housing and other necessary assistance is unnecessarily delayed. These new budget cuts will only make this trend worse and ultimately result in a less responsive, less efficient, and less productive city. We know that is not your goal.

Your ambitious and necessary goal to create 500,000 new homes in the next decade will not succeed if you proceed with this plan. After all, if we are to rely on HPD and other related agencies to solve this crisis, we must ensure they have the workforce and resources to do the work quickly and efficiently.

We would be happy to discuss these concerns with you or your staff, and we very much look forward to your support on this important issue for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

All Angels' Church
ANHD
The Arker Companies
Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation

Asian Americans For Equality (AAFE)
Banana Kelly CIA , Inc.
Broadway Community
Bronx Pro Group
CAMBA, Inc.
Center for NYC Neighborhoods
Chhaya
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
Citizens Housing and Planning Council
CLOTH
Coalition for Homeless Youth
Coalition for the Homeless
Community Service Society of New York
Concern Housing
Cooper Square Committee
Curtis + Ginsberg Architects
Douglaston Development
Dunn Development Corp.
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC)
Fifth Avenue Committee
The Fortune Society
GOLES
Gotham Organization
Habitat NYC and Westchester
Health & Housing Consortium
HELP USA
Highbridge Community Development Corporation
Hirschen Singer & Epstein LLP
Homeless Services United
Hope Community, Inc
Housing Rights Initiative
The Hudson Companies
IMPACCT Brooklyn
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing
Interfaith Center of NY
L+M Development Partners
The Legal Aid Society
LISC NY
Low Income Investment Fund
Macquesten Development, LLC
MBD Community Housing Corp
MDG
Mega Contracting Group
Monadnock Development
Morningside Heights Community Coalition
Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, Inc.
Neighborhood Restore HDFC
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
New Destiny Housing
New Settlement
New York Building Congress
New York Housing Conference
New York State Association for Affordable Housing
New York State Council of Churches
Omni New York LLC

Phipps Houses
Project Hospitality
REBNY
RPA
RiseBoro
Rising Together
Rockabill Consulting LLC
Shams DaBaron "Da Homeless Hero"
Selfhelp Community Services
The Society Solution Inc.
South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SoBro)
St. Nicks Alliance
Supportive Housing Network of NY
University Neighborhood Housing Program
VIP Community Services
Win (Women in Need, Inc)
WSFSSH