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**Donna Logwood**

My name is Donna Logwood and I am a member of Second Baptist Church – Southside in Councilman Jones’s district.

I am here with the RISC Organization to ask for your leadership in solving our city’s eviction crisis using proven tools such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

22% of Richmond households pay more than HALF of their income on housing. Extremely low-income renters pay 83% of their income on rent, on average. This means that 39,000 families in our city are on the brink of homelessness, one crisis away from an eviction.

Of course, a big part of this problem is income – people in our community are not able to find jobs that allow them to live in the city.

Richmond’s Housing Trust Fund has created **1,160 jobs** over the last 4 years. The Trust Fund **supports 54 jobs** annually.

Even setting aside the Trust Fund’s direct impact on housing, this resource makes good economic sense.

Richmond’s Housing Trust Fund has spurred \$74.6 million in economic activity over the last 4 years. This includes jobs, permits, fees, real estate taxes, and other economic benefits. Development projects funded by the Trust Fund continue to generate benefits for the city in the long-term.

I am asking that you would prioritize funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Eviction Diversion program, making sure that the Affordable Housing Trust Fund remains in the budget at \$2.9 million and the Eviction Diversion Program at \$485,000.

I also want to renew our invitation for each of you to attend Central Virginia’s largest interfaith assembly on Thursday, May 2. Hundreds of people are excited to see you there. This is the largest gathering of citizens you may have the chance to speak to. It’s an opportunity to talk to over 1,000 people who are not there to complain, but to support proven solutions. It’s a positive, productive gathering and we hope you will attend and make commitments to address Richmond’s eviction crisis.