

Richmond Housing Justice Collective and Local Tenants Demand Action from City Council on Anti-Displacement

Richmond Housing Justice Collective is asking Council to take action on **three proactive anti-displacement measures with upcoming votes:**

- 1. Implement the Residential Rental Inspection Program**
- 2. Enact a resident-led Gilpin Court Redevelopment Plan**
- 3. Prioritize Anti-Rent Gouging in Richmond's 2026 Legislative Agenda**

These solutions address three of the most pressing causes of displacement: unsafe living conditions, privatization of public housing, and rent-gouging. This press conference will highlight the experiences and support of the community for these tenant-led solutions to displacement.

Richmond is a renter-majority-working-class city: 57% of households are renters, 52% of them are cost-burdened – this is a higher ratio than in major cities like New York, Chicago, or San Francisco. At the same time as historic increases in rents, from January 2025 to July 2025, Richmond's Department of Planning and Review cited 630 building code violations. Consecutively, there is a multi-month fight to keep some of our only deeply affordable housing from demolition without 1:1 replacement and maintaining tenant protections.

"Anti-rent gouging is important because there are people like me whose rent will get raised \$200 a month, but the paychecks will not. As someone who is on disability and had their housing voucher taken away, it's important to have protections when government assistance fails to prevent displacement."

- Emeka Anyalewechi, 3rd district tenant and New Virginia Majority member

"This proposed rental inspection program is so important to me and to all of us who've had to live in a home that wasn't safe, to deal with a landlord who didn't care if we lived or died...In the process of helping people get off the streets and into their own homes, I've seen landlords trying to rent out places in such horrible conditions, hazardous, and unsafe to live in. These are places that make people sick, that have infestations and mold. These homes make people sick for the rest of their lives with chronic bronchitis or respiratory conditions."

-Penny Page, DSA Member

"Public housing is the most affordable housing in the City of Richmond, because rent is based on a percentage of household income...[R]eal estate investors are eager to take the land that our homes sit on to further their control of Richmond, city leaders need to do what is needed to keep our families stable."

- Kiara Harris, Gilpin Informed Resident and 3rd District tenant

Richmond's current eviction rates have surpassed pre-pandemic levels, securing the infamous title of the second highest eviction filing rate in the country: a stark ratio of 113 tenant assertions filings to 14,022 eviction filings with only 12 tenants winning their tenant assertions versus more than half losing their eviction cases in 2024 alone. Combined with the lack of affordable housing within the city and swiftly rising rents, the risk of losing housing is at an all time high. The continued imbalance of private landlord interests over public health and wellbeing is untenable and must change.

The Richmond Housing Justice Collective is committed to lifting up community-driven solutions to displacement, and centering the voices of tenants over corporations.

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