

**Kristin Gorin**

My name is Kristin Gorin and I am a member of Temple Beth El in Councilman Addison's district. In our district, the eviction rate is 3.5% compared to the national average of 2.3%.

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.

The current housing deficit in the Richmond Metro region will require 30,000 new units of housing for working-class people and 15,000 units for low income households. In addition, another 110,000 units are needed for projected regional growth over the next 20 years.

Without these new housing units, Richmond is quickly becoming a city where middle-class families simply cannot find housing that we can afford.

Richmond's Trust Fund, with just under \$4 million invested over 4 years, has assisted 3,915 households to enter housing that they can afford – including families, individual adults, and senior citizens. This includes rental units as well as homeownership. In total, 579 new units were built, the majority for households making 60% of the AMI, which is around \$50,000 for a family of 4 or \$35,000 for an individual.

Our Trust Fund is effective. However, comparing 579 new units built with the gap of 45,000 new units needed in our region, we can see that far more is needed.

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 hope you will attend RISC's Nehemiah Action Assembly on May 2nd to directly address these issues with 1,200 of your constituents.