

**Charlotte Housing Advocates Demand
Independent Community Oversight for the Housing Trust Fund**

July 18, 2018

Pamela Wideman
Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services
600 E Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Director Wideman:

We the undersigned represent a broad network of organizations and individuals advocating for equitable housing in Charlotte.

We agree that the city should commit \$50M to the Housing Trust Fund. However, our continued support of either the housing bond referendum or the current city leadership requires clear policy from city leaders that these funds will be used effectively and in a way that prioritizes the most pressing housing needs for those at or below 30% Area Median Income.

In the interest of accountability and transparency, and with the desire to see housing funds used effectively to ensure equitable housing in Charlotte, we urge city leaders to support our calls for **independent community oversight** of the administration of housing funds. This community oversight body will:

1. Have the authority to review and provide input on proposals for the use of housing funds submitted to Housing and Neighborhood Development
2. Produce a scorecard designed to provide transparency for the public on why and how housing funds are allocated, by whom and for what purpose
3. Be comprised of individuals who belong to or who advocate on behalf of communities impacted by displacement and homelessness and who possess institutional memory regarding housing policy in Charlotte

City leaders have acknowledged the need to prioritize housing for homeless and low-income residents. We ask that the Mayor and City Council demonstrate a seriousness to this commitment by embracing our calls for greater transparency and accountability; prior to the bond referendum, we ask that the HOUSING CHARLOTTE plan be amended to include a role for independent community oversight.

Sincerely,

Rev, Greg Jarrell, Co-Director, QC Family Tree,
28208

Rev. Jennifer Helms Jarrell, Co-Director, QC Family
Tree, 28208

Robert Dawkins, Political Director, Action NC

Davena Mgbeokwere, LCSW, Metrolina
Association of Black Social Workers member,
28203

Darryl Gaston, Founder, North End Community
Coalition (NECC)

Rev. Glencie Rhedrick, Vice Chair, Mayfield Memorial CDC

Melissa Gaston, Founder, North End Community Coalition (NECC)

Carol Hardison, Crisis Assistance Ministries, 28203

Bob Simmons, Executive Director, Council for Children's Rights, 28202

Terry Brown Jr., Chair, John S. Leary Association of Black Attorneys, 28208

John H. Divine IV, Affordable Housing Activist, 28211

Jay Leach, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte, 28211

Martin H. Mutter, Carolina Jews for Justice

Anna Zuevskaya, Program Director, West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition, 28266

Stephen Valder, MD, 28205

Aisha Dew, Community Advocate, 28216

Barb Machina, TribeMind LLC

Rev. Amantha Barbee, Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church

Don Taylor, Author

Mike O'Sullivan, Affordable Housing Advocate, 28202

Peg Chapin, Community Activist, 28227

Chassity Wickware, 28262

Kenn Shrader, Citizen and Community Advocate, 28105

Janice McNeely

GQ Lewis, 28269

Kaleia Martin, MSW, 28214

Mary Kelly, 28211

Liz Millsaps Haigler

Xavier Hill

Bree Newsome, Community Organizer, 28216

Uhuru Hilton, 28213

Peter Kelly, Affordable Housing Advocate, 28211

Lisa Stockton Howell, Affordable Housing Advocate, 28205

Jean Busby, Organizer, Action NC

Angie Forde, Affordable Housing Advocate, 28204