

5th SQUARE

March 15, 2018

Dear Philadelphia City Council Members,

We, the undersigned organization, formally endorse City Council Resolution No. 170854, regarding Good Cause Eviction. Good Cause is a critical amendment that will prevent thousands of Philadelphians from facing wrongful evictions at the end of their lease terms.

Philadelphia faces an eviction crisis. Since the year 2000, Philadelphia has lost over one-fifth of its affordable housing. In some neighborhoods, eviction affects 15% of renters per year. Eviction is not a victimless crime. This epidemic directly targets Philadelphia's families. Out of those evicted each year, two thirds are women of color, and having children increases chances of eviction by three times.

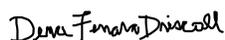
When Cross Properties Acquisitions purchased the 240 unit Penn Wynn House in West Philadelphia at the beginning this year, a mass eviction was issued for the hundreds of existing tenants, effective June 1st. Many of the tenants facing eviction were on a fixed income, elderly, disabled, army veterans, or required special housing needs. Among these evictees was long-term tenant Mrs. Darlene Green, who had resided in the Penn Wynn House for nearly a decade. When asked about why Philadelphia needs Good Cause legislation, she answered, "People deserve to live securely and in peace."

Good Cause legislation is a preventative measure for combating displacement and potential homelessness in the city. This amendment to the *Unfair Rental Practices Law* will prevent no-fault evictions at the end of lease term and give tenants an opportunity to contest good cause before the Fair Housing Commission. These protections promote stability, allowing tenants to stay in their homes longer and invest in their communities.

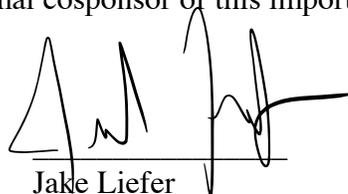
This September, Councilperson Jones, along with Co-sponsors Helen Gym and Cherelle Parker, introduced *Good Cause Legislation Bill 170854*. Councilpersons Jannie Blackwell and Bill Greenlee have also pledged their support for the bill.

Members of our organization, along with the Philadelphia Tenants Union, urge you to take a stand for the thousands of tenants in our city and become a formal cosponsor of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Dena Ferrara Driscoll
Chair
5th Square



Jake Liefer
Chair
5th Square