



National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Queen City Metropolitan Chapter (QCMC)

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June 24, 2016

The Honorable Jennifer Roberts
Office of the Mayor
600 East Fourth Street, 15th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Mayor Roberts,

I greet you in the name of collective advocacy and unity of purpose and as President of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women – Queen City Metropolitan Chapter. The National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW) is an advocacy organization for African American women. The recent public discourse, both nationally and locally, leaves us without any doubt of the relevancy of our purpose and mission to advocate for black women and girls in the areas of health, education and economic empowerment. Taking our concerns to local, state and federal lawmakers and officials *is* a critical part of our advocacy agenda.

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women has 62 chapters and approximately 5,000 members across this country. Our membership is comprised of professional black women who are business owners, government officials, corporate executives; educators, elected officials and most importantly we are mothers, grandmothers, daughters and caretakers. Through strategic partnerships, the NCBW has an established history of advocacy initiatives and programs.

The NCBW- Queen City Chapter members are committed and hard working women of all profession and persuasions. To that end, the members of the NCBW-Queen City Chapter have an interest in addressing the economic disparities that exists in our local community. As you know, many residents in our community are experiencing increase economic inequity and stagnant mobility. New research has shown that children who are raised in Mecklenburg County have less of a chance to climb the income ladder as they get older than most other areas of the country. This same research reveals that counties that have greater intergenerational mobility have 5 characteristics - one of the characteristics is less segregation by race and income.

We have paid special attention to the debate that is currently taking place in the City of Charlotte as it relates to affordable housing. According to the North Carolina Housing Coalition: “... over 1 million households do not have and cannot afford a safe, stable home in NC [ii]; the average hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent is \$14.68 -- almost twice as much as minimum wage; 10,519 households go without heat in the winter; and more than 16,548 homes still lack indoor plumbing ... ***The state's most critical housing need is improving rental***

housing opportunities for households earning less than 30% of median income.” Data recently cited in the Charlotte Business Journal indicates that the “year-over-year rent rates increased last month by 4.2% in Charlotte, which . . . outpaces the state’s rate of 1.8% and the national rate of 2.7%.” The rise of cost of housing is making it difficult for low and moderate-income residents to find affordable housing. Housing impacts access to: jobs, health care, transportation, healthy foods and education. Everyone should have access to quality and affordable rental housing.

Nationally, the NCBW has adopted a resolution in support of affordable housing (see attached). The NCBW-Queen City Chapter share your concern, and the concern of other like-minded people, that as our city grows and develops, it is imperative that the city pay special attention to the need for affordable housing. Elected officials are charged with the responsibility of looking out for the best interest of all citizens of our city, especially for those who are in the most need. We applaud LaWana Mayfield, as Chair of the Housing & Neighborhood Development Committee, for her support for bringing affordable housing to our city. We call on all our elected officials to adopt policies and procedures that ensure that our city has sufficient affordable housing to meet the needs of our residents. As our city grows and changes affordable housing must be one of our critical focal points.

Please know that NCBW – Queen City Metropolitan Chapter stands ready to help you protect our families by ensuring that there is sufficient affordable housing in our city. Within our membership we have professionals with direct local and national systems expertise and best practices in this area that could further assist by providing testimony if needed.

We wish you good luck and remain available to assist you as needed. Please free to contact me directly at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Sincerely,

Gloria Kelly
President
National Coalition of 100 Black Women
Queen City Chapter