



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

“America’s Most Livable City”

Office of Mayor William Peduto

February 22, 2017

To: Housing Developers in East Liberty

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In the fall of 2015, my team worked closely with the Penn Plaza resident council to structure a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the owners of Penn Plaza Apartments to aid those residents facing imminent eviction. Since that time, we have been working with the resident council and a team at Neighborhood Allies to make sure every single resident is placed in suitable housing. When we first received notice of the potential evictions in July 2015, we were working with over 200 residents. Today, we have only 20 residents who are still working hard to find housing. These residents have lived through the hard times in East Liberty, and they deserve the opportunity to live through the good times.

The litigation brought against the City by the owners of Penn Plaza threatens to put the quality of lives of these remaining residents at risk. In response, we are seeking court action against the owners of Penn Plaza to assure that the remaining residents are not evicted in violation of the MOU, and further to secure the commitments they made toward relocation expenses and to maintain habitable conditions for Penn Plaza residents. We are at a critical final stage of this ordeal, and we need your help.

Each of you have made significant investments in additional housing in and around East Liberty, and in many cases the public made co-investments in your projects. Please accept this letter as an appeal, on behalf of the City and the residents of Penn Plaza, to work with Neighborhood Allies and open up your available housing units to accept residents of Penn Plaza. If you each are able to accept just a few residents, we can make sure that every resident of Penn Plaza is treated with respect and are provided the opportunity to continue to live in East Liberty.

My staff will be reaching to set up a meeting early next week to discuss this opportunity to invest in and help change the lives of fellow residents presently in crisis. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

William Peduto
Mayor

Cc Diane Batayeh, Village Green
George Mongell, Vitmore
Todd Reidbord, Walnut Capital
Gregg Perelman, Walnut Capital
Steve Mosites, Mosites
Mark Minnerly, Mosites
Jim Eby, TCB
Vince Bennett, MBS
Keith Key, KBK
Bill Gatti, Trek
Larry Swanson, Action Housing
Maelene Myers, ELDI
Rick Swartz, BGC
Aggie Brose, BGC
Andy Haines, S & A Homes