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MAYOR STEVEN FULOP AND COUNCILMEMBERS JAMES SOLOMON, FRANK GILMORE AND YOUSEF SALEH TO INTRODUCE ONE OF THE STRONGEST RIGHT-TO-COUNSEL LAWS IN THE NATION

Plan Establishes Right-to-Counsel for Tenants Facing Eviction and Brings in Tens of Millions of Dollars to City’s Affordable Housing Trust—All Paid for by Developers

JERSEY CITY, NJ—Mayor Steven M. Fulop, along with **Councilmembers James Solomon, Frank Gilmore, and Yousef J. Saleh** are set to introduce Right-to-Counsel (RTC) legislation in Jersey City. The legislation is poised to be one of the strongest RTC policies in the United States. RTC would be paid for entirely by collecting fees on new development, which would **provide the city with tens of millions of dollars for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund each year**. The legislation will ensure that any and all new development in Jersey City provides funding towards new affordable housing.

“We have made historic improvements to expand affordability and important protections for residents, and this Right-to-Counsel proposal will put the necessary policies in place to further help our most vulnerable families facing unfair evictions,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Most people facing eviction can’t afford an attorney to defend their basic human right to housing, and this RTC goes beyond funding their legal needs. It will also add critical funding to expand affordable housing opportunities for low- and middle-income residents for generations to come.”

“Everyone deserves the right to safe, affordable housing—and everyone deserves the right to keep that housing,” said **Councilmember James Solomon**. “We all want to reduce the number of evictions in our city, and to do that, we need to make sure that tenants are fairly represented in eviction court while ensuring that the developers profiting from rising rents pay what they owe.”

“People facing eviction—disproportionately Black and brown communities—are currently not entitled to representation when facing eviction,” said **Councilmember Frank Gilmore**. “These are often the people who can’t afford private representation, while landlords and developers who make large profits

can and do. It's time to tip the scales back towards the people and ensure everyone has the right to fair representation."

"Right now, people can't afford to pay skyrocketing rents, leaving more families at risk of eviction—while developers continue to get away with making record profits at our expense," **said Councilmember Yousef J. Saleh.** "We need to fight to keep Jersey City residents in their homes, because higher costs and a lack of legal protections are driving them out."

The proposed bill would establish a Right-to-Counsel office where tenants will be connected to legal services and resources like rental assistance programs. It would also establish an implementation oversight board led by tenants.

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All media inquiries should be directed to Kimberly Scalcione at KScalcione@icnj.org.