



STEVEN M. FULOP  
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

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**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

### **Jersey City Right-to-Counsel Legislation Receives Support of At-Large Councilmembers Amy DeGise and Danny Rivera, Paving the Way for its Passage**

*Alongside Co-Sponsors, Majority of Jersey City Councilmembers and Mayor Fulop Support the Impactful Legislation*

**JERSEY CITY, NJ** - Today, *Jersey City's Right-to-Counsel and Development Impact Fee legislation* received the endorsements of at-large Councilmembers Amy DeGise and Daniel Rivera. The Councilmembers' endorsement guarantees five YES votes for the bills, a majority to pave the way for their passage. Councilmembers DeGise and Rivera worked with the legislation's sponsors to ensure funds collected from development fees would support emergency rental assistance and housing rehabilitation and that the right-to-counsel office would conduct education and outreach to the general public.

"This legislation is crucial to providing comprehensive support and resources for residents that prioritizes equity and social justice in housing," said **Councilwoman-at-large Amy DeGise**. "This legislation protects vulnerable populations, promotes housing stability, and fosters a strong sense of community. As we continue this work, we must ensure our middle-class residents are not excluded due to income thresholds and provide education and information for mom-and-pop landlords who seek guidance navigating tenant-landlord relations. I look forward to continuing this important work together."

"Our city is taking yet another significant step to reduce unwarranted evictions that disproportionately affect minorities most," said **Councilman-at-large Daniel Rivera**. "At the same time, this legislation will further grow our Affordable Housing Trust Fund to continue breaking new ground in our collective fight to increase affordability for our most vulnerable residents."

“This self-sustaining Right-to-Counsel legislation is the latest important step in our efforts to expand access to quality affordable housing opportunities and provide much-needed protections for our residents, especially our traditionally underserved populations who need it most,” said **Mayor Steven Fulop**. “Everyone deserves a safe place to live without fear of being needlessly uprooted. That’s why we are standing up for our residents, especially those facing eviction who oftentimes cannot afford an attorney to fight for their constitutional rights.”

“Black and Brown communities are disproportionately affected by evictions, and Right-to-Counsel will close that racial gap while keeping all Jersey City residents in their homes,” said **Councilmember Yousef Saleh**. “The passage of this legislation proves that we don’t have to choose between investing in affordable housing development and protecting our tenants.”

“I am grateful to Mayor Fulop and the Councilmembers who have demonstrated their public support for Right-to-Counsel in Jersey City—and I’m thrilled to add Councilmembers DeGise and Rivera to this list,” said **Councilmember James Solomon**. “They will be the fourth and fifth vote for this bill, guaranteeing its passage. Above all, their commitment to our residents means that Jersey City will pass one of the strongest Right-to-Counsel bills in the country, protecting tenants across the city.”

“Right-to-Counsel will reduce the number of evictions in Jersey City,” said **Councilmember Frank Gilmore**. “The accompanying development fee levied against the city’s wealthiest real estate interests would pay for the program while growing our Affordable Housing Trust. It’s good policy, good politics, and good for Jersey City.”

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