



From left to right: Lisa Weingartner, MSW, LSW [Executive Vice President for Programs, Valley Youth House], Christopher Bernard [Director of Housing Services, Philadelphia, Valley Youth House], Jackson Duncan [Director of Operations, Odin Properties], Roberta Cancellier [Deputy, Housing Services, Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services], Angela Brooks [Chief Housing and Urban Development Officer, City of Philadelphia], Shani A. Meacham, JD [Senior Vice President, Programs, Valley Youth House], Stephanie Pastula [Director of Strategic Partnerships, Philadelphia Housing Authority], Laura Morris [Operations Director, Prevention Services, Philadelphia Department of Human Services], Kimberly Ali [Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Human Services]

In Partnership with Valley Youth House, Office of Homeless Services and Department of Human Services, PHA Opens First Supportive Housing for Youth Exiting Foster Care or Experiencing Housing Insecurities

By Valley Youth House

Philadelphia, PA - Valley Youth House joined with the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), Office of Homeless Services, Department of Human Services, Mayor Cherelle Parker and elected officials to open the newly constructed community called 2112 Ridge Avenue, a supportive housing initiative designed to support young adults exiting foster care or housing insecurities.

"Safe, stable housing gives young adults leaving foster care the foundation they need to focus on building their futures instead of worrying about where they'll sleep at night," said PHA CEO Kelvin A. Jeremiah. "We want to prevent homelessness, stabilize young adults, and support them in achieving self-sufficiency."

"Valley Youth House is dedicated to empowering young people by fostering dependable relationships, providing safe spaces, and building strong community connections," said Mayor Cherelle Parker. "This initiative is driven by strong intergovernmental partnerships across local, state, and federal levels, along with the power of collaboration."

The first of its kind, this 36-unit mixed-use building in the Sharswood section of the city provides 30-one and six two-bedroom units. The ground floor provides communal amenities such as a lobby and reception area, bike storage, multipurpose room, kitchenette, food pantry, and a computer lab. Separate dedicated office spaces for supportive service operations are also located on the ground floor.

Eligibility is focused on young adults experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity who are ages 18-24 upon entry. Residents may only be referred by the city's Department of Human Services or Office of Homeless Services.

Valley Youth House is honored to be the competitively selected Supportive Service Provider for the project. For over 50 years, Valley Youth house has serviced youth and young adults experiencing housing instability or homelessness, including those involved with the foster care system.

"When children age out of foster care, they don't age out of the need for guidance, stability, and opportunity. Providing resources ensures they have the foundation to thrive as independent adults," said Thomas R. Harrington, President and Executive Director, Valley Youth House.

"Together, the Philadelphia Housing Authority and City Administration have established a groundbreaking housing approach that serves as a model for communities nationwide addressing young adult homelessness," said Congressman Dwight Evans, Third-Congressional District.

Dixie TIF Fails at County Council

By Northampton County Executive Lamont G. McClure

Northampton County, PA – After more than four decades of vacancy and false starts, Northampton County Council's refusal to approve the proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan speaks to how out of touch they are with the residents they represent.

Council's decision also forfeits \$1.1 million that would have been invested directly into affordable housing within Northampton County, funding that could have provided real relief to working families and residents most in need.

With Wilson Borough and the Wilson Area School District both voting in favor, the County Council's refusal stands out as obstructive and denies residents the benefits of a plan that had broad local support.

While the federal government is shut down and Pennsylvania lacks a state budget, County Council had the chance to act decisively for its residents. Instead, this decision delays potential economic growth, housing opportunities, and community improvements for those who would have gained the most.

"The council was presented with a straightforward plan to breathe life back into a site that has sat empty for 42 years," said County Executive McClure. "They continue to prove themselves to be the most useless county council in home rule history."

"At a time when action was needed, Council dropped the ball, turning a chance for progress into yet another chapter of missed opportunity."



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