

Resolution: Affordable Housing

WHEREAS, affordable housing is an essential component of working people's standard of living; and

WHEREAS, the supply of affordable housing in New York State falls far short of the need; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing in New York City and the surrounding counties makes it difficult for the City University of New York to recruit new faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing creates a hardship for many CUNY students, their families, and both full- and part-time faculty; and

WHEREAS, the existing supply of affordable housing is under attack; rent control and rent stabilization laws are in grave danger of being abolished; and an increasing number of federally subsidized Section 8 buildings and state-subsidized Mitchell-Lama Buildings are leaving their subsidy programs and going to market rents; and many public-housing developments are threatened with demolition or privatization; and

WHEREAS, the private real-estate industry offers no solution to this crisis;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. The governments of New York City, New York State, and the United States appropriate the necessary funds to build and subsidize the building of affordable housing; and that with the building of such units, permanent tenants' rights and affordability are guaranteed; and
2. Legislators in all governments in New York State use their good offices to preserve affordable housing by guaranteeing tenants' rights in all kinds of housing, and to ensure that these rights become ongoing, without sunset; and in particular that
 - a. Rent-control and rent-stabilization laws be strengthened and preserved;
 - b. Mitchell-Lama rental units be preserved by blocking landlord buy-outs and by placing bought-out Mitchell-Lamas under rent stabilization;
 - c. Section 8 buildings be placed under rent stabilization if landlords opt out and that tenants be protected by making it illegal for landlords to discriminate based on source of income; and
 - d. The federal law that makes it mandatory for tenants in public housing to do community work in order to maintain their residency be repealed, and that the policy of privatization of public housing be abandoned;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that

1. The Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York (PSC/CUNY) shall communicate this policy to all elected officials and candidates for public office; and
2. The PSC/CUNY shall join with religious, civic, and tenants' organizations in order to pursue the preservation of existing affordable housing and the construction of new affordable housing.

Passed: Legislation Committee 6/05/01

Passed: Executive Council 6/11/01

Passed: Delegate Assembly 6/14/01