



Contact:

press@welcomehomewestchester.org

914-273-0730

www.welcomehomewestchester.org

 @WHWestchester

Press Release

The Welcome Home Westchester Campaign Releases First White Paper: *The Economic Benefits of Building the Housing We Need*

(Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.) The Welcome Home Westchester campaign and allied organizations held a press conference on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 12:00 noon to introduce the release of the campaign's first white paper: *The Economic Benefits of Building the Housing We Need*. The event was held at 445 North State Road in Briarcliff Manor, an affordable housing development built in 2013.

Speakers at the event included Ron Abad, CEO and Executive Director of Community Housing Innovations (CHI), Francis Ferrara, who serves on the Board of Trustees for the Village of Port Chester, Crystal Hawkins-Syska, Board President of Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (HGAR), and Alex Roithmayr, Senior Research Associate of the Building & Realty Institute (BRI).

The white paper reviews data from national economic models, academic research, and local studies to describe in detail how building housing in communities sufficient to meet their needs brings with it short-term jobs, long-term jobs, an increase in revenue for local businesses, and a boost to property tax revenue. Far from an albatross, the paper concludes that housing is one of the most economy-boosting investments a city, town, or village can make.

[The Economic Benefits of Building the Housing We Need is available here.](#)

"The gap between the housing Westchester County's communities are producing each year and the housing our region needs may not always be a top issue for existing residents, but this report should change their minds. As the paper lays out in meticulous detail, if you care about jobs, the local economy, your property tax bill, or your school tax bill, you should care about whether we're creating the housing that meets our needs," Timothy Foley, CEO of the Building and Realty Institute (BRI) said.



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“Greater investment in affordable housing and reducing barriers to producing more housing in Westchester will lead to a higher quality of life for all Westchester residents, improved educational opportunities for children, safer neighborhoods and healthier lives. We all reap the economic benefits of more jobs, increased tax revenue and revitalized neighborhoods. The upward mobility for families due to improved economic status and housing have a positive effect on all that family’s neighbors. CHI encourages all Westchester residents to support Welcome Home Westchester’s goal to provide more affordable housing for all,” Ron Abad, CEO of Community Housing Innovations said.

“Multifamily housing can help us do more than address the need for more housing and more diverse housing choices. It can help us address the challenges of climate change as we position Westchester for continued prosperity in the 21st century. Multifamily housing, especially when built near transportation nodes, enables lifestyles with lower carbon footprints and assists in supporting local retail that is struggling in the face of the ever-expanding seductive convenience of e-commerce,” Frank Ferrara, a Board of Trustee for the Village of Port Chester said.

“The myth that having housing for a broader range of incomes harms a community has been holding Westchester back for decades. We are so pleased to be publishing this White Paper which shares the significant body of research validating what we instinctively know to be true – a community that provides a variety of housing options secures its workforce, its tax base and its economic prosperity,” Anahaita Kotval, CEO of Lifting Up Westchester said.

“With the November elections approaching, the need for new housing should be on the platform of the candidates in every village, town and city in Westchester County. To my politicians -- what’s your solution for the affordable housing and home ownership challenge we all face here in Westchester?” Michael Murphy, Director of New Project Development for Murphy Brothers Contracting said.

The Welcome Home Westchester campaign believes that having adequate housing to meet the needs of the communities and the



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Mid-Hudson region has many, many benefits that are not purely economic. Housing is fundamental. It is the oxygen for the local economy, and a major concern for attracting new employers who will want to know if their future employees will be able to afford to live in the area they work. It is security for families. It is a difference-maker for the future generation: safe, secure, and affordable housing has been linked to better school attendance, higher educational attainment, and improved mental and physical health. At a time when institutions across the board are coming to terms with the sometimes invisible and sometimes implicit bias that shapes their outcomes, increased housing is part of the solution for bridging the persistent racial economic gaps in Westchester county. And given that homes and buildings account for 40 percent of carbon emissions nationwide, tackling the climate crisis has to involve tackling the housing crisis.

For more information on the “Welcome Home Westchester” campaign, please view our issue brief [here](#) or visit: welcomehomewestchester.org.

The Welcome Home Westchester campaign combines several companies involved in the home building and development of housing with economic leaders like the Westchester County Association and Nonprofit Westchester, academics and think tanks that have extensively examined the housing question, organizations dedicated to fighting against homelessness and supporting families in need, faith leaders and community advocates to drive forward a new conversation around housing in the county.

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