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## City Council Recognizes Women's Community Revitalization Project for 35 Years of Providing Affordable Housing and Advocacy

*Resolution calls WCRP a nationally recognized leader that has supported over 2,500 individuals in achieving greater economic and family well-being*

**PHILADELPHIA** – Philadelphia City Council has paid tribute to the Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP) for 35 years of serving Philadelphia's low-income community with housing, social service programming and leadership in effectively advocating for the city's most vulnerable citizens.

The resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Derek Green, and approved on November 4<sup>th</sup>, reads in part, "the organization has grown to become a nationally recognized, innovative developer that to-date has supported over 2,500 individuals achieve greater economic and family well-being through tenant supportive services, engages about 75 individuals a year in leadership development activities, while offering opportunities to use those skills in helping to guide WCRP and play key roles in its advocacy campaigns, and built more than 322 new homes and invested \$115 million in some of Philadelphia's poorest neighborhoods."

WCRP Founder and Executive Director Nora Lichtash said being honored is a wonderful accomplishment, but the battle to create equitable communities in Philadelphia is far from over.

"It's very gratifying to have City Council acknowledge our efforts on behalf of low-income families and I thank Councilmember Green and his colleagues for recognizing our contributions," Lichtash said. "I am also grateful to the citizens of Philadelphia for voting to support greater funding for affordable housing in the recent election. Our focus now is on getting more city-owned land transferred to community land trusts, so organizations like ours can produce more housing, open space and community farms."

When WCRP was incorporated in 1987, it became Philadelphia's only community development organization created by and for women and their families.

The resolution further states, "In addition to managing its properties and providing supportive services to tenants and communities throughout Philadelphia, WCRP has established itself as a leader in advocating for equitable, healthy community development and support for local women and their families as well as community organizing campaigns aimed at shaping public policy outcomes."

Much of WCRP's work has been in North and eastern North Philadelphia. Throughout the 1990's with funding from the William Penn Foundation, WCRP worked with residents to reclaim vacant land and repurpose it for community green space, converting over 125 vacant parcels into 12 open-space parks, while creating over 40 side yards and backyards.

In addition, according to the resolution, WCRP assisted homeowners on eight blocks around the Adolfinia Villanueva Townhomes, providing grants and low-interest loans for home repair and renovation, resulting in major façade and other improvements.

WCRP's latest project under construction sits on land owned by a community land trust, the Mamie Nichols Townhomes in the Point Breeze neighborhood in South Philadelphia.

"We are proud of the community land trust work we have shepherded with our partners for the past 12 years," Lichtash said. "We believe these trusts represent the best hope for keeping land permanently affordable not only for housing, as a protected area against gentrification, but also for community gardens, commercial spaces and other assets that benefit the community."

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### *About WCRP*

The Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP) is committed to social and economic equity for low-income women and their families, developing housing, providing supportive services, advocating for policy change, and honoring leadership, dignity, and justice in our communities. Learn more at [www.wcrpphila.org](http://www.wcrpphila.org).