



Philly's City Council Turned Down a New Rental Inspection Program – Studies Show that Might Harm Tenants' Health

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As **Philadelphia** Mayor Cherelle Parker's US\$2 billion **housing plan moves forward**, heated debates continue about another set of municipal housing proposals that could transform Philadelphia tenants' rights.

In June 2025, Philadelphia's City Council considered three housing bills, collectively known as the **Safe Healthy Homes Act**. The package was introduced by Nicolas O'Rourke, an at-large council member who belongs to the Working Families Party.

One of the bills authorized the city to create a fund for tenants to relocate if their buildings are condemned by city inspectors. It was signed into law, though it **remains unclear** how the fund will be financed.

The other **two bills stalled**. One was an ordinance that would **broadly strengthen tenants' rights**, and the other – known as the **Right to Repairs** – would shift how Philadelphia ensures housing is safe for tenants, empowering the city to proactively inspect rentals for housing code violations.