

Human Rights City Alliance--General Meeting June 23, 2022

Meeting notes & Invitations to volunteer

- 1) **SAVE THE DATE! Our annual human rights cookout (#8) will be Sunday August 28th** at Schenley Park's Westinghouse Shelter (across from Flagstaff Hill, near Phipps Conservatory & Bob O'Connor Golf Course). **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with cookout planning, outreach, fun! Please contact us at pghrights@riseup.net**

- 2) **Leilani Farha visit for Fair Housing Month:**
 - a. **Follow up action:** We will form a task force to explore Farha's recommendation that Pittsburgh develop a [human rights-based housing strategy](#). **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- please contact us at pghrights@riseup.net if you want to help with this initiative** (no experience or expertise necessary-we're all learning together!).
 - See [our full report on the visit \(PDF\)](#), which summarizes key points we and our public officials need to know about the obligations of governments in regard to the right to housing and provides links to many great resources. Also, see this new set of [Directives on Financialization and Human Rights](#)
 - PODCAST: [From Palestine to Pittsburgh--#Pushbacktalks April 20, 2022](#)

- 3) Response to Mayor Gainey's [Transition Report 2022](#): We're working to finalize a response to this report that helps emphasize a human rights approach and priorities for the 69 recommendations put forward by the new administration's transition committees. We will be sharing this soon as an open letter and recommendations to the mayor and City Council. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with outreach/media promotion- please contact us at pghrights@riseup.net.**

- 4) Report to the UN on U.S. compliance with its obligations under the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\)](#). We'll put together a report for Pittsburgh that will be submitted to the UN CERD Committee, and this report will also be shared with local activists as we use them to inform and shape decisions by elected officials and policy makers. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with follow-up and outreach related to this report. Please contact us at pghrights@riseup.net if you want to help with this initiative**

- 5) **Indigenous Peoples Day organizing:** Activists who helped push the city to agree to remove the Christopher Columbus statue are inviting us to work with them to expand this work to advance Indigenous Peoples Day recognition in place of what has traditionally been recognized as Columbus Day. We'll also be organizing activities to honor that day this year on October 10th. Please contact organizers: Ben benjaminbordwell@gmail.com or Symone symonemsaul@gmail.com for more information.

TAKE ACTION to defend affordable housing

Community [petition campaign to Protect Inclusionary Zoning & Demand Affordable Housing for All!](#) *In response to Pittsburgh's chronic affordable housing crisis, the City Council recently passed a modest inclusionary zoning ordinance to require developers to designate at least 10% of units in developments of 20 or more units as affordable for low-income residents. The Builders Association of Metropolitan*

Pittsburgh (BAMP)—a special interest group made up of corporate developers—has sued the city to prevent the implementation of the ordinance, and community partners are working to fight this move as we defend the rights of all residents to affordable, safe and secure housing. Please sign the petition! here <https://secure.everyaction.com/ymOliRNNikKlrrqVBDdOkQ2> and help spread the word!