



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WOMEN'S COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROJECT CUTS RIBBON ON 27 NEW AFFORDABLE TOWNHOMES**

*The Arlene Thorpe Townhomes provide 27 affordable rental units to low-income Philadelphians*

**PHILADELPHIA** – The [Women's Community Revitalization Project \(WCRP\)](#) celebrated the completion of its newest affordable housing development, 27-unit the Arlene Thorpe Townhomes, with a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 11. Philadelphia City Council President Kenyatta Johnson, whose Second Council District the townhomes were built in, was on-site to honor the occasion.

The Arlene Thorpe Townhomes are the latest WCRP properties developed on land owned by the Community Justice Land Trust (CJLT) which ensures the homes will remain permanently affordable. This unique partnership is part of WCRP's strategy to prevent residents from being displaced in neighborhoods like Grays Ferry as the area undergoes rapid gentrification. The Townhomes are named after Arlene Thorpe, a beloved community leader and fierce advocate for the Grays Ferry neighborhood.

"With this new development we have continued to create homes that are truly affordable for community residents" said Nora Lichtash, Executive Director, WCRP. The townhomes include central air, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer, garbage disposal, and common space for tenant activities. Six of the homes are wheelchair accessible and two were built with specific accessibility features for persons with hearing or visual disabilities.

"Today's celebration speaks to the power of innovative and equitable real estate development," said Kenyatta Johnson, Philadelphia City Council President. "The Arlene Thorpe Townhomes represent what is possible when public and private entities work together with a shared vision to ensure long-term stability and affordably priced housing in Grays Ferry."

With a particular focus on low-income women and their families, WCRP strives to increase equity through the development of affordable housing in Philadelphia. The organization involves residents and neighbors in their design to ensure homes meet the real-life needs of the families who live there. WCRP will provide supportive services to tenants of the Arlene Thorpe Townhomes to help them achieve family and financial goals. The organization also acts as property managers, handling leases and maintenance.

"Arlene Thorpe is a fantastic project," said John Mondlak, Interim Director of the City's Department of Planning and Development. "It furthers the Mayor's mission of creating homes that are beautiful, as well

as affordable. WCRP is a great partner, and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.”

To learn more about WCRP, please visit [www.wcrpphila.org](http://www.wcrpphila.org).

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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).