

An open letter from more than 220 faith leaders and activists to Seattle City Council

Black Lives Matter! Add \$50 million to big business tax to fund 1,000 homes in the Central Area to reverse racist gentrification

Dear Seattle City Councilmembers:

As faith and community leaders of many traditions, we urge you to fully support the demand of the African-American clergy who have lifted up the call to build 1,000 new affordable apartments in the Central Area, to reverse racist gentrification.

We urge you to support Councilmember Kshama Sawant's Amazon Tax amendment to add \$50 million/year in funding for these 1,000 homes.

As the African-American clergy noted in their letter to you earlier this month,

"The displacement of long time African American residents from Seattle's Central Area is the result of racist policies that originated in slavery, segregation, racial covenants, redlining, urban renewal, and now gentrification. Blacks families are priced out of Seattle's unaffordable housing market."

We call for City Council to enact a progressive tax on big business to fund housing and services, including construction of at least 1,000 homes in the Central Area to bring back households that have been displaced over the years by racist gentrification.

As you know, Councilmember Sawant, working alongside us, is introducing legislation that would fund the construction of these 1,000 new, affordable homes in the Central Area, and would give tenancy preference to those who have lived in the neighborhood or who have family historical ties to the neighborhood. It is being introduced as an amendment to the Amazon Tax legislation now being debated in City Council.

This amendment would begin to undo racist gentrification policies that private developers and the city have been responsible for creating and perpetuating over the years.

We believe Black Lives Matter, and we know you do too! It's time we back our Black faith leaders and publicly announce our support for, and vote for 1,000 affordable homes in the Central District so that our Black families can return and live in their neighborhood, who have been displaced from 1960 (80% Blacks) to 2020 (12%), and with Councilmember Sawant's amendment behind us, we can get the funding for our Black sisters and brothers, now!

In peace,

Title	First name	Last name	Faith community
The Rev. Dr. Reverend	Robert Lawrence	Jeffrey, Sr. Willis	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Truevine of Holiness Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr.	Carey	Anderson	First African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church
Reverend Reverend	Bianca Willie	Davis-Lovelace Seals	WA Poor People's Campaign Cherry Hill Baptist Church/The Christ Spirit Church
Bishop The Reverend	Garry Angela	Tyson Ying	Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church Bethany United Church of Christ
Executive Director Executive Minister	Michael Rev Steven	Ramos Davis	Church Council of Greater Seattle Plymouth Church United Church of Christ
Reverend	Aneelah Paul	Afzali Benz	Muslim Trinity Lutheran Church
Co-Director Board President/ Moderator	Elise Suzanne	DeGooyer Simmons	Faith Action Network Bethany United Church of Christ
Pastor	Karyn	Frazier	Fauntleroy Church, United Church of Christ
Reverend	Kay	Barckley	University Temple UMC
Reverend	Ruth M	Brandon	Everett United Church of Christ
Reverend	Joy	Haertig	United Church of Christ
Reverend	Patricia	Simpson	United Methodist Church
Reverend	Austin	Adkinson	Haller Lake United Methodist Church
Reverend	Andrew	Conley-Holcom	Admiral Congregational Church
Reverend	Catherine	Emanuel	United Church of Christ
Reverend	Rich	Lang	Lake Washington United Methodist Church (Kirkland)
Reverend	Barb	Laski	Plymouth UCC Seattle
Reverend	Katy	Lloyd	
Reverend	Terri	Stewart	Milton UMC
Reverend	Emily	Tanis-Likkel	United Church of Christ
Reverend	Jan	Van Pelt	United Church of Christ
Reverend	Bobbi	Virta	United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr.	Joanne	Carlson Brown	Des Moines United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr.	J. P.	Kang	Japanese Presbyterian Church of Seattle
Rev. Dr.	Sacia	Vik	Journey Christian Church Seattle

Reverend	Cristina	Airaghi	Tolt United church of Christ, carnation Washington
Reverend	Beth	Chronister	University Unitarian Church of Seattle
Reverend	Gail	Crouch	University United Church of Christ
Reverend	Kelly	Dahlman-Oeth	Ronald United Methodist Church in Shoreline
Reverend	Sendo Anne	Howells	Chobo-Ji Zen Practice Center
Reverend	Bill	Kirlin-Hackett	Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness
Reverend	David	Kratz	Retired United Church of Christ
Reverend	Katie	Ladd	Queen Anne United Methodist Church/The Well
Reverend	Ryan	Lambert	Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ
Reverend	Mimi	Lane	United Church of Christ
Reverend	Paul	Ortiz	University Temple United Methodist Church
Reverend	Diane	Schmitz	United Church of Christ
Reverend	Leland	Seese	Mount Baker Park Presbyterian Church
Reverend	Neal	Sharpe	Valley and Mountain
Reverend	Gary	Southerton	Broadview Community UCC
Reverend	R Richard	Marchand	Episcopal Church (retired)
Reverend	Debra	Conklin	St Paul's United Methodist Church
Reverend	Kathy	Turner	United Church of Christ
Reverend	Diane	Darling	Alki United Church of Christ
Reverend	Lara	Bolger	Redmond United Methodist Church
Reverend	Albert	Hatcher	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Reverend	Jane	Pauw	Rainier Beach Presbyterian Church
Deacon & Minister	Doris	Anderson	New Hope Baptist Church, Seattle
Minister	Carolyn	Woods	New Hope
Deacon	Cleveland	Dillon	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Deacon	Curtis	Gayden	Baptist
Deacon	Rafenia	Jeffries	
Deacon	Janet D	White	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Rabbi	David	Basior	Kadima Reconstructionist Community
Rabbi	Olivier	BenHaim	Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue
Rabbi	Avi	Fine	Jewish
Rabbi	Jason	Levine	Temple Betham
Rabbi	James	Mirel	Bet Chaverim
Rabbi	Josh	Weisman	

Pastor	Joy	Promise	
Past			
Moderator/Board			
President	Annaliza	Torres	Bethany United Church of Christ
UCUCC	Edward	Coleman	University Congregational UCC (UCUCC)
Assistant			
Moderator			
Associate	Shirley	Perry-Poston	Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
Minister			
Attorney	Bernice	Funk Cade	Bethany UCC
Caring Christian	Meredith	Maruyama	Fauntleroy United Church of Christ
Chaplain	Kathy	Heffernan	St. Patrick's Catholic church
Commissioned	Amy	Johnson	United Church of Christ
Minister			
Director of	Kyna	Shilling	
Finance and			
Operations,			
University UCC			
Dr.	Kimberly	Segall	UCUCC Christian Church
Dr.	John	Ruhland	Bethany United Church of Christ
Dr.	Judith	Thierry	United church in University Place
Dr.	Ginger	Warfield	University Congregational United Church of Christ
Interfaith	Corey	Passons	Community for Interfaith Celebration
Minister			
Lay leader	Michael	Gordon	Plymouth Church Seattle UCC
Dr.	Valentina	Warner	Seattle Insight Meditation Society (information purposes only)
Min Dr	Brenda	Jackson	Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
Moderator	Marsha	Tolon	Journey Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Mr.	Robert	Brown	United Church in University Place
Mr.	Glenn	Seaverns	Fauntleroy Church UCC
Mrs.	Rosemary	Blakemore	Journey Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Ms.	Rosy	Betz-Zall	UFM. Quaker
Ms.	Louise	Cabeen	Christ Episcopal Church, Seattle
Ms.	Beth	De Rooy	none
Ms.	D'vorah	Kost	Kadima. Jewish.
Ms.	Nel	MascallvanderLinden	Buddhist
Ms.	Karen	Schneider	Awake Church
Ms.	Mary Anne	deVry	WIN(Westside InterfaithNetwork) & Fauntleroy UCC
Ms.	Sally	Porter	Fauntleroy UCC
Ms.	Joanna	Schoettler	Druid - ArchDruidess

Ms.	Diana	Steeble	Member of the Jewish community
Professor	Henry	McGee	Seattle First Baptist Church
Emeritus Seattle University Law Teacher	ANGELA Barbara	DE ITA O'Brien	UCC University Congregational United Church of Christ
	Azzam	Aijazi	Islam
	Barbara	Anderson	Keystone UCC
	carol	asmann	Immanuel Lutheran Church
	Carol	Barber	NA
	Beth	Bartholomew	University Congregational United Church of Christ
	Diane	Beverly	Kadima
	Wendy	Blight	Liberation United Church of Christ
	Hans	Brehmer	
	Katherine	Brennan	Fauntleroy Church UCC
	Kelley	Brown	Rainier Avenue Church
	Diane	Browning	
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	Sherry	Bupp	St. Louise de Marillac, Bellevue
	Kevin	Burdet	Bethany UCC
	Alan	Castle	Quaker
	Jenny	Chang	
	Ming	Chen	Awake Church
	Pamela	Chin	Rainier Avenue Church
	Tricia	Coley	Methodist
	Anna	Colwell	Plymouth Church Seattle UCC
	Sarah	Cunningham	St. Paul's UCC
	Peter	Cunningham	
	Amanda	Dabbs	Plymouth
	Gregg	Dailey	Rainier Church
	Shakur	Darboe	Baptist
	Jean	Darsie	Ballard Community Taskforce on Homelessness and Hunger
	Kathy	Dawson	All Pilgrims Christian Church
	Tulika	Dugar	Jain/Buddhist/Hindu
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	Ruth	Egger	Kadima
	Lisa	Ehli	Rainier Avenue Church
	Lynn	Ferguson	Methodist
	Sarah	Finney	Fauntleroy Church, UCC
	Elizabeth	Fornoff	Magnolia United Church of Christ
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Christine	Frishholz	Fauntleroy Church, UCC, West Seattle
Moira	Fulton	St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Michelle	Gaither	Fauntleroy UCC
Bradford	Gerber	Buddhist faith
Jill	Germain	Rainier Ave Church
Hannah	Grandine	Valley & Mountain
Joan	Gregory	Fauntleroy UCC
Mary	Hackney	
Christine	Hanson	Plymouth UCC
Jill	Harlow	Fauntleroy UCC
Bernice	Harris	Temple Beth Am
Rhonda	Harris	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Marguerite	Haskin	Fauntleroy Church, United Church of Christ
Erin	Hazard	Yeshua Messiah
Dittie	Hepzibah Banks	New Hope Baptist Church
Lynn	Hernande	Choboji
Barbara	Hill	
Sue	Hodes	Lotus Insight Sangha Buddhist
Vivian	Hoffman	
Theresa	Hohman	All Pilgrim's Christian Church
Jared	Howe	UCC Bethany
Whitney	Howe	Bethany UCC
Kay	Hubbard	Unitarian
Joseph	Iano	
Carroll	Jackson	
joe	kadushin	
Julie	Kageler	University Temple United Methodist Church
Sima	Kahn	Kadima Reconstructionist Community
Sue	Kay	None
Emily	Knudsen	
Bill	Koenig	Fauntleroy UCC
Elizabeth	Larios	
Lynne	Levine	
Christine	Mahar	Fauntleroy Church
Elizabeth	Maupin	SSpirit of Peace UCC and Church of the Apostles
Megan	Miller	Fauntleroy UCC
Noemia	Mlekarov	Bethany United Church of Christ
Chava	Monastersky	Jewish
Irene	Monson	Fairwood UMC

Dennis	O'Brien	University Congregational United Church of Christ (UCUCC)
Heather	Otieno	Rainier Avenue Church
Mary	Paananen	University Congregational United Church of Christ
Kirsten	Pangelinan	United Church of Christ
Adrienne	Papermaster	
Susan	Partnow	Jewish
Patricia	Pawelak-Kort	Temple Beth Am
Dyvon	Payton	
Aimee	Pinckney	Fauntleroy Church UCC
John	Preston	Keystone UCC
Quinn	Rasmussen	
Elizabeth	Reis	
Annie	Riggins	Baptist
Curtis	Riggins Sr.	Baptist
Jonathan	Rosenblum	Kadima Jewish Community
Steven	Rowland	
Edward	Salazar	Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Ji Temple
Daichi		
Rita	Schenck	Atheists
Megan	Slade	Bethany UCC
Sara	Smith	Fauntleroy United Church of Christ
Ellen Kay	Sneed	University Congregational United Church of Christ
Cinda	Stenger	Alki United Church of Christ
Karin	Strand	
Jan	Thomas	St. Patrick Church
Shann	Thomas	Bethany
Anne	Thureson	None
Claire	Tirtoprodjo	Rainier Avenue Church
Jasper	Tollefson	Bethany United
Lynn	Uppinghouse	Bethany UCC seattle
William	Vanderwilt	University Congregational United Church of Christ
Constace	Voget	Keystone United Church of Christ
Connor	Wakayama	
Joan	Weiss	Jewish
Jonathan	Went	Queen Anne United Methodist
Ursula	White-Oliver	New Hope Baptist Church
Donald	Willis	Christ Episcopal Church
Alice	Woldt	Trinity United Methodist Church
Judith	Zeh	Professor Emeritus, U of W and Friend of Rev. Angela YIng

Dick Stein
Carrie Stein
Seneeka Colly
Sheila Willis
Joanna Mills
Karen Jeffrey
Rosann Rankin

Temple B'nai Torah
Temple B'nai Torah

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Rainier Avenue Church
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