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Testimony to Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings, and Dispositions
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NYC Health + Hospitals Jacobi Just Home

Thank you for the opportunity for Robin Hood, New York City's largest poverty-fighting philanthropy, to submit testimony supporting the ground lease application of The Fortune Society for Just Home on the Jacobi Hospital campus. For more than two decades, The Fortune Society has been one of Robin Hood's core partners, providing support for individuals and families impacted by the criminal justice system. Under The Fortune Society's leadership, Just Home is an innovative initiative in partnership with NYC Health + Hospitals and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development for about 83 permanent supportive and affordable housing units, including wrap-around services for medically complex, homeless New Yorkers after they leave jail.

Just Home advances two Robin Hood program and policy priorities:

- Preventing homelessness by cutting off the prison-to-shelter pipeline and
- Providing a foundation of housing stability to escape poverty and to secure employment, unique challenges for those who were formerly incarcerated and have significant health conditions

Accessing stable, affordable housing and preventing criminal justice system interactions are two critical milestones documented in research that are key to increasing economic mobility and reducing poverty. Criminal justice involvement makes it harder to [secure reliable housing](#).¹ Indeed, research shows justice involved individuals are [drastically more likely to be homeless or housing insecure](#) than the general public.²

Supportive housing prevents and reduces homelessness, as well as decreases reliance on more expensive temporary shelter and hospital care. A [2023 evaluation](#) of the NY/NY III Supportive Housing Agreement showed statistically significant cost savings, as well as increased housing stability and improved health outcomes for tenants,³ while a [Department of Health and Mental Hygiene interim report](#) found City shelter, health care and jail cost savings.⁴ [Research](#) also has found that stable housing reduces recidivism, with the New York City assessments finding supportive housing tenants spent fewer days in jails.⁵ In general, [affordable](#)

¹ Prison Policy Initiative, Who pays? The true cost of incarceration on families, Sept. 2015, available at <https://static.prisonpolicy.org/scans/who-pays%20Ella%20Baker%20report.pdf>

² Prison Policy Initiative, Nowhere to Go: Homelessness among formerly incarcerated people, Aug 2018, available at <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html>

³ Gouse, et al, Evaluation of New York/New York III permanent supportive housing program, 2023, available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0149718923000228#ab0010>

⁴ New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, New York City Human Resources Administration, New York State Office of Mental Health, New York/New York III Supportive Housing Evaluation Interim Utilization and Cost Analysis, available at <https://shnny.org/images/uploads/NY-NY-III-Interim-Report.pdf>

⁵ Urban Institute, Can Housing Interventions Reduce Incarceration and Recidivism?, Feb. 2019, available at <https://housingmatters.urban.org/articles/can-housing-interventions-reduce-incarceration-and-recidivism>; Lutze, F. E., et al, Homelessness and reentry: A multisite outcome evaluation of Washington State's reentry housing program for high risk offenders. Criminal Justice and Behavior, 2013, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854813510164>



[housing, made possible with rental assistance, provides a sustainable path for New Yorkers to move out of poverty.](#)⁶

Fortune Society's Just Home is also responsive to New Yorkers' top priorities for making neighborhoods safer - increasing affordable housing and reducing homelessness -- according to a recent Robin Hood-funded survey, NYC Speaks. Just Home will not only create housing and health care for individuals impacted by the justice system, it will also help make New York a more safe, stable, and fair city for all our neighbors.

⁶ Robin Hood, New Poverty Tracker Report Finds Housing Assistance Programs Reduce Poverty Rate Among Recipients by a Third, Lifting More Than 150,000 New Yorkers Above the Poverty Line, July 2025, available at <https://robinhood.org/news/2025-poverty-tracker-report-housing-affordability-housing-assistance/#:~:text=Report%20Finds%20Housing%20Assistance%20Programs,50%25%20of%20the%20poverty%20line>.