

**Christopher A. Johnson**  
Majority Whip, Legislator, 16<sup>th</sup> District  
Chair, Social Services



**Committee Assignments**  
Budget & Appropriations  
Labor & Housing

To: Ben Boykin, Chairman of the Board of Legislators  
Sunday Vanderberg, Clerk of the Board of Legislators

From: Christopher Johnson, Legislator, 16<sup>th</sup> District

Date: September 28, 2021

Re: **B.O.R.N Program – Building Owners Renewing Neighborhoods Program**

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A significant number of properties in urban communities throughout Westchester are in subpar condition. These conditions result from some landlords doing the bare minimum and other building owners inability to afford the necessary property renovations that would both enhance the aesthetic of the property and the quality of life of the residents who occupy these apartments. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this issue since residents are struggling to pay their rent and therefore landlords are further unable to perform renovations.

I am proposing a Rehabilitation Grant Program for building owners in the county of Westchester who provide affordable housing and can't afford to make necessary repairs to their properties.

This grant would allow building owners to receive \$15,000 per unit, up to 20 units, with the expectation of providing affordable rent to current and prospective residents for a period of 2 years.

Additionally, should any municipality match the County portion of the grant, a bonus should be issued to the building owner, further igniting the rehabilitation efforts.

While on the surface this doesn't increase the affordable housing stock, it does increase the quality of life for residents. It should also make communities more desirable for an increased number of affordable housing units.

Please refer this memo and to the appropriate committees on the October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Westchester County Board of Legislators meeting agenda.