



**A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION**

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**Philadelphia Legislators, Organized Labor, Community Groups and Construction Industry Hold Roundtable Discussion about Safer, Non-Combustible Construction**

*Use of Non-Combustible Materials Stands Out as an Immediate Change That Could Dramatically Improve Fire Safety Standards across Philadelphia*

**Philadelphia, PA** – Build with Strength hosted its second roundtable discussion in Philadelphia on Wednesday morning, alongside Councilmember Cherelle Parker, Democratic nominee for City Council At-Large Isaiah Thomas, Jim Kehoe representing Wayne Miller, Business Manager of Sprinkler Fitters Local 692 and Assistant Building Manager of the Building Trades Council, and Larry Williams, Executive Director of the Steel Framing Industry Association. Panelists discussed their shared commitment to improve safety standards and building codes in Philadelphia in order to keep residents and first responders safe.

“It is so important that we pay attention to the materials in our buildings”, said Councilwoman Cherelle Parker. “We need to make sure that our communities are protected from cheap and unsafe construction. I appreciate that Build with Strength is bringing to the table a diverse group of industry professionals, community organizations, and leaders across the city to make our city safer. I am excited to be here today to discuss what we can do as elected officials to work with community groups and residents to address this issue.”

Similarly, Democratic nominee for City Council At-Large Isaiah Thomas stated: “Folks in this area are proactive in coming together to improve our community. When you’re talking about issues like this, residents expect community organizations and elected officials like we have here today to step up and advocate and fight for them and the safety of their homes. I look forward to working with Build with Strength to make the changes needed to address this issue.”

Amid the disturbing uptick of wood-framed building fires, organized labor leaders of Philadelphia have championed the call for stronger building codes and positive, preventative change.

Additional organized labor groups counted among Build with Strength Philadelphia’s coalition members include the Philadelphia Building Trades Council, International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1291, Philadelphia Jewish Labor Committee, Philadelphia Metal Trades Council, Iron Workers Local Union 405, Cement Masons Local Union 592, Bricklayers & Allied Crafts Local Union 1, Teamsters Local 830, Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local Union 14 and Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 19.

Build with Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), has launched a campaign to educate citizens, local and state officials, and industry experts about the inherent dangers of wood-framed construction, particularly in multi-story, residential and commercial buildings. As a grassroots organization, they work with local elected officials and industry workers, from architects to project managers to advocate for the safety benefits of working with non-combustible construction materials.

Learn more at [www.buildwithstrength.com](http://www.buildwithstrength.com)

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