Dear [affordable housing advocate],

I attended the city council meeting last week and learned that the city council had approved the creation of affordable housing units. One council member specifically focused on ensuring that we were paying close attention to neighborhood safety and the health needs of the community residents.

I work in public health and am writing to see if you would like to meet to talk about these things. As you may know, the public health field has data and tools that could help address your concerns and establish some measurable outcomes. I hope we can work together when thinking about the link between housing and community health.

Sincerely,
Dear [affordable housing advocate],

As I’m sure you know, last week the city council approved the creation of affordable housing units. As a public health professional, I believe that making safe and affordable housing available to everyone represents an important investment in creating healthy communities, so I’m heartened to see the council is taking action. Housing advocates have been working hard to make this vision a reality, and my public health colleagues and I are eager to help. I am writing to offer public health data expertise that may be beneficial to your efforts.

Before moving to [CITY], I participated in a tri-county coalition to launch an affordable housing initiative. We brought housing advocacy groups, city planners, and local public health professionals together to develop a plan that made new affordable housing units central to the revitalization of key areas in the region. By partnering with public health, advocates were able to use data to make the case for housing as a foundational component of community health. We demonstrated that quality housing underlies a range of measurable community outcomes, from reducing chronic health problems to increasing educational attainment. We also secured commitments to fund new housing units in all three counties and successfully advanced designs that emphasized healthy spaces and opportunities for social engagement.

Are you available to meet to talk about how we might collaborate to fuel your efforts? The council’s action last week could be an opportunity for us to join forces to advance our community’s well-being, and I’d be grateful to learn more about your perspective on the best ways to keep affordable housing a priority.

Sincerely,