



June 17, 2020

Contact:

Alejandra Lopez
The Legal Aid Society
ailopez@legal-aid.org
(917) 294-9348

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Legal Aid Urges Rent Guidelines Board to Roll Back Rents Ahead of Final Vote Tonight

(New York, NY) - Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society and former tenant member of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board, released the following statement ahead of the Rent Guidelines Board final vote tonight, urging the Board to roll back rents:

“Amid the economic devastation that COVID-19 has caused, the only appropriate action is to roll back rents for the nearly 1 million rent-regulated apartments in New York City. Our clients and all low-income tenants across the city are already at a breaking point and we must provide meaningful relief in order to avoid a wave of evictions.

According to the U.S. Census' Household Pulse survey, 20 percent of tenants across New York State were not able to make rent for May and 29 percent of tenants showed little to no confidence in being able to make their June rent payment. The share was higher among Black tenants (41 percent), Latinx tenants (41 percent) and tenants earning less than \$50K (34 percent).

A vote for anything other than a rent rollback will further exacerbate the unprecedented housing crisis and push struggling New Yorkers into homelessness. We cannot allow that to happen and implore the Board to think of these families during the final hearing tonight.”

###

The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>