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

Legal Aid to Wall Street NIMBY Group: Fund Affordable Housing Instead of Vilifying Homeless New Yorkers

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society condemned the Wall Street NIMBY group "Downtown New Yorkers Inc." for its plan to raise nearly \$1 million to fuel a racist campaign against homeless New Yorkers whom the City might move from the Lucerne Hotel on the Upper West Side to a permanent facility in the Financial District, as [reported](#) in the *New York Post*. Legal Aid has long [opposed](#) the City's **cruel** decision to move the men of the Lucerne Hotel in response to empty threats from NIMBY groups, accurately predicting that it would embolden other such groups like the newly created "Downtown New Yorkers Inc."

Judith Goldiner, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society, stated - "Nothing sounds more Trumpian than a group of Wall Streeters crowdfunding \$1 million to wage a war on some of our City's most vulnerable. New Yorkers roundly denounced this playbook when it was trotted out by Upper West Side NIMBYs, and residents of lower Manhattan should have zero tolerance for brazen racism such as this. Instead of raising a war chest to support a morally bankrupt litigation strategy which would further traumatize our clients and compromise their legal right to shelter, 'Downtown New Yorkers Inc.' could actually make a meaningful contribution to its community by donating that money to fund affordable housing construction."

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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. www.legalaidnyc.org