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

***Elected Officials, Advocates, and Tenants Condemn Astoria
Landlord Who Refuses Boiler and Other Repairs, Leaving
Sixteen Families Without Heat as Temperatures Drop***

(QUEENS, NY) – On Wednesday, November 18th, New York State Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani, Nadya Stevens, Deputy Chief of Staff from the Office of State Senator Ramos, The Legal Aid Society, and tenants from 21-11 27th Street in Queens, NY gathered outside of the sixteen-unit apartment building in Astoria to condemn landlord, Patricia Martin, for refusing to complete essential repairs in the building.

Tenants approached **The Legal Aid Society** with an emergent problem: their homes have been without consistent hot water and heating for over a month. Despite numerous repair requests from tenants, many of whom are immigrants and low-wage workers, Martin still has yet to repair the malfunctioning boiler. The situation becomes more emergent each day: this week temperatures will dip as low as 30°F and will only continue to drop as winter approaches.



Tenant from 21-11 27th Street, Astoria, trying to stay warm while doing schoolwork with no heat.
Photo credit: The Legal Aid Society



NYS Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani, Legal Aid's Sateesh Nori, Nadya Stevens from the Office of NYS Senator Ramos, and tenants from 21-11 27th Street held a press conference outside of the sixteen-unit apartment building in Astoria.
Photo credit: Office of New York State Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani



NYS Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani, Legal Aid's Sateesh Nori, Nadya Stevens from the Office of NYS Senator Ramos, and tenants from 21-11 27th Street stand in front of the sixteen-unit apartment building in Astoria.

Photo credit: Office of New York State Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani

The landlord of the building has also threatened the tenants with eviction despite protections of the rent stabilization law. These threats are illegal and constitute harassment. The City has issued several violations against the landlord, but, despite the seriousness of the conditions, the landlord has failed to make the necessary repairs.

With children as young as one year old, some of whom have chronic health conditions like asthma, these repairs cannot wait. **The Legal Aid Society** is filing an HP Action in Queens Housing Court to force the landlord to address these emergency conditions as winter approaches.

“At a time when so many New Yorkers are struggling to keep a roof over their heads, put food on the table, and the temperatures are only plunging, it is unconscionable that some landlords would wield their power over their tenants by denying them consistent heat and hot water,” said **New York State Senator Jessica Ramos**. “Tenants have rights, and we will stand with them until those rights are met, essential services are returned, and the harassment ceases.”

New York State Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani said, “The callousness of so many of New York’s landlords is routinely appalling, even under normal circumstances. But in the context of a surging pandemic, grave economic precarity, and mounting pressures on family life, Patricia Martin’s actions are truly shocking. Her tenants are some of the essential workers holding up our city as it battles a second wave of this pandemic. They’re also among the communities most harmed by its effects and most neglected by their government. To add harassment in their own home to the difficulties they’re already facing is a scandal. Martin needs to end this lawless behavior, restore essential services, and start respecting her tenants’ legal rights.”

“For weeks, my office has repeatedly asked this landlord to restore heat after receiving multiple calls about the outage,” said **New York City Council Member Costa Constantinides, District**

22. “They have shamefully not complied — leaving their tenants to shiver as the temperature drops. I stand with these tenants, my colleagues, and Legal Aid in calling on them to do what’s right and restore the heat immediately.”

Sateesh Nori, Attorney in Charge of the Queens Neighborhood Office of The Legal Aid Society, said: “This is an outrageous case of a landlord tinkering with her tenants’ rights by turning off their heat. These are tenants who represent the American dream. They are immigrant families- including babies and the elderly, and essential workers. During this pandemic no one should be subject to such harassment and abuse.”

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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.

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